

Newsletter

CLAG & LASG

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Edited by Elise Arellano-Thompson



Latin America
Specialty Group



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

CLAG 2026 PUERTO VALLARTA

ABSTRACT AND SESSION PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OPEN

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE OCT 17, 2025

Meeting

We are thrilled to announce the 39th CLAG to be held at the Centro Universitario de la Costa - Universidad de Guadalajara (CUCOSTA) in Puerto Vallarta from **January 6-9, 2026**, with additional field trips scheduled for January 10-11 2026. Please join us!

Registration

Registration for the meeting will open at the beginning of September, please stay tuned!

Abstracts and session proposal submissions are open. Please [follow this link](#) to learn more about registration and abstract/session submissions.

Travel Grants

We are pleased to announce that CLAG is welcoming applications for [students](#) and [professionals](#) from the Global South to attend the 2026 meeting. You can find more info on these in the newsletter and follow the links to learn more.

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2028

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**all terms end on June 30 of year indicated*

LASG Officers

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Letter from the Executive Director

Kristen Conway-Gómez

June 10, 2025

Welcome to the June newsletter. For those embarking on field work, may it be a productive season, for those finishing up your semester, may things wrap up smoothly. Planning for CLAG 2026 Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, is well underway, the latest issue of JLAG has just come out, board elections have just completed, and student field grants have been awarded – lots going on.

Board elections are around the corner from today and will have been completed by the time this column is published with four openings being voted on. I thank all who nominated or were nominated in *antemano*. Your active engagement in and willingness to provide service to CLAG are what keeps our organization vibrant, and many hands make light work. Thank you, gracias, muita obrigada to all!

Speaking of field work, it is exciting to see the good work that the next generation of Latin Americanist scholars is working on and gratifying that CLAG can support some of this work. We had a very competitive round of student field grants, with 37 applications received - 30 at the PhD and seven at the masters level. We awarded 16 PhD and four master's level field grants from this strong pool of proposals and look forward to learning about their accomplishments in the field. Refer to the CLAG Scholar website for the names, project titles, and reports of the work done by last year's field grant recipients. Congratulations/*feliciades/parabens* to this year's awardees! All the best in your field work endeavors, we look forward to learning about your experiences and progress next year.

Field grant efforts definitely aid the next generation, and pay our organization dividends, one instance of this occurred in May, when a 2017 master's level grant recipient (Brenna Sweetman, Michael Steinberg's advisee) contacted me with a request to meet with the Board of [AmeriGEO](#) to share information about CLAG. Their organization is dedicated to cooperation among countries in the Americas in the use of Earth observations, for societal benefit. There are several common elements between our organizations that may benefit from collaborative efforts. If you are interested in exploring how your work may benefit from a collaboration with AmeriGEO, explore options as a [Participating Organization](#).

In current scholarship, if you have not yet had the opportunity, dig into issue 24 of [JLAG](#), with four research articles, three perspectives, six book reviews, and a timely editorial there is sure to be something there of interest for you. This scholarship is why JLAG continues to move forward as a key journal of the geography of Latin America. Do consider sharing your work in JLAG, it will be read by many. If you have a book manuscript planned, make sure to consider our book series with University of Florida Press. Your writing is of interest to us and is what makes our organization and its scholarly outputs so valuable. As Martha and Jessica noted in their preview of issue 24, this was a team effort, and an example of how many hands make important contributions to keeping CLAG running and relevant – your efforts and contributions matter and are appreciated.

CLAG 2026 is now six months away – time to start making travel plans for the best conference of the year. You may reserve a room at the discounted rate using the code at the [conference website](#) on CLAGScholar (feel free to check other outlets as well), you don't want to miss this stimulating gathering that reminds us each time why we keep coming back for the professional enrichment and relationships cultivated at CLAG conferences. Thank you for your interest in and contributions to CLAG, keep staying safe out there!

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



Letter from the CLAG Chair

Sarah Blue

Dear CLAGistas,

It's been a great year for CLAG – through the persistent efforts of Diana Liverman, we received a generous contribution from Margaret FitzSimmons' estate to establish the Carl and Lorena Sauer student fieldwork endowment. This endowment will fund a larger award (~\$5,000) that is meant to support more in-depth, longer duration fieldwork – an excellent tribute to the legacy of Carl Sauer in Latin American Geography. The Carl and Lorena Sauer Award will be granted annually to the top applicant for the CLAG student field award competition. The first (2025) Sauer award went to UW-Madison PhD student Anika Rice to support her field research in Guatemala, focusing on transnational migration, land and gender in highland Guatemala (Anika's advisor is Dr. Lisa Naughton). Congratulations, Anika! Also, with revisions made through the Executive Board's careful attention to detail and approval by both the CLAG Board and membership, we completed an update to CLAG's Bylaws (last revised in 2014), which can now be accessed on our website @ <https://clagscholar.org/membership/handbook/bylaws/>.

Vice-Chair Zoe Pearson led the CLAG portion of the LASG-CLAG Business Meeting at the AAG in Detroit, where she highlighted CLAG's ongoing activities. CLAG's peer-reviewed journal, the Journal of Latin American Geography (JLAG), is being expertly run by our co-editors Martha Bell and Jessica Budds. They have taken concrete steps to expand JLAG's reach, visibility, and quality as the leading international journal for the publication of geographical scholarship on Latin America. In 2024, Google Scholar ranked JLAG as 5th most cited journal among all Latin American studies journals, up three places from 8th in 2023. Readership numbers in 2024 were at a record high. They continue to make progress towards meeting the requirements needed to include JLAG in the major academic indices (Scopus, Web of Science main index) through improving the production process, including an expansion of JLAG's web presence and translating journal policies to three languages: English, Spanish, and Portuguese. In addition to your research articles, the editors urge you to consider sending proposals for special issues, JLAG perspectives, and book review forums as well. A big thank-you to Gaby Valdivia and Nick Padilla for organizing the 2025 JLAG AAG lecture, titled, "Weaving together the Americas: communities, bridges, belonging, from Abya Yala to Turtle Island" that reflected on the intersections of Latin American and Latinx geographies. The CLAG publications committee announced 4 books currently under contract with the University of Florida Press as part of the CLAG-sponsored Critical Geographies Book Series and two other projects in contract negotiations (please send inquiries to publication committee chair Joel Correia).

In 2025, CLAG was once again able to support a large number of graduate students in their field research, awarding 16 field study grants (1 Sauer PhD award, 12 PhD and 4 MS awardees) – see the awardee's research highlighted on the next page. Congratulations to the award winners and thanks to the CLAG Board members who put in many hours of their time reading and ranking the proposals (Adriana Zuniga-Teran (chair), Luis Sanchez, Jennifer Devine, Kristen Conway-Gomez, and Sarah Blue). Our ability to fund these grants comes from revenue generated from article downloads of JLAG. Please remember to use Project Muse to download JLAG articles and assign them for your classes: <https://clagscholar.org/publications/jlag>. Also, 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.

Finally, we are excited to announce the next CLAG Conference, January 6-9, 2026, at the Centro Universitario de la Costa – Universidad de Guadalajara (CUCOSTA) in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Kristen Conway-Gomez (ED) and I have been working with our excellent colleagues at CIGA, UNAM Morelia – Isabel Ramirez, Manuel Bollo, and Jaime Paneque-Gálvez – to plan the conference. We encourage CLAG members to organize themed sessions and reach out to colleagues in Latin America and beyond to participate in the conference. The CLAG website (<https://clagscholar.org/conferences/puerto-vallarta-2026/>) has up-to-date conference information, including information on the conference hotel, abstract submissions, registration, student and professional travel

grant applications, etc. One of the many benefits of CLAG membership is the opportunity to apply for student and professional conference travel grants (the latter to support members' attendance from institutions in Latin America). As the conference registration deadline (11/01) and abstract submission (10/17) approach, please remember to renew your own membership and encourage your graduate students and colleagues to become new members.

The constant barrage of attacks on academic freedom, international students, immigrants, the environment, international aid, and so many issues our members care deeply about has made this a troubling year. Our continued work to support the next generation of academics while we elevate marginalized voices and expose inequalities work to counter these trends and will keep our discipline strong in these troubled times. Having great colleagues working in solidarity gives us collective strength.

Cúdense mucho y abrazos a tod@s,
Sarah

Carl & Lorena Sauer Award (PhD, \$5,000 award):

Anika Rice, University of Wisconsin, Madison – “Transnational migration, land and gender in highland Guatemala,” Advisor: Dr. Lisa Naughton



Doctoral Students (\$1,500 award):

- **Kara Anderson**, University of Toronto – “Gendered approaches to the Guatemalan food crisis in Maya women’s return to milpa,” Advisor: Dr. Ryan Isakson
- **Cameron Blumhardt**, University of New Mexico – “Convergent Science for Identifying Factors in the Decline of Southern Ecuador’s Páramo Ecosystems,” Advisor: Dr. Marygold Walsh-Dilley
- **Caroline Carrion-Klier**, The Pennsylvania State University – “Environmental Factors Driving the Spread of an Invasive Plant Species in the Galápagos Islands” Advisor: Dr. Guido Cervone
- **Mauricio Rada**, Colombia University – “Perceptions of Urban Risk: Disasters as a Mode of Urbanization,” Advisor: Dr. Anthony Vanky

- **Paula Cepeda Mahecha**, Colorado State University – “Women’s lived experiences of climate change and deforestation in armed conflict: implications for developing nature-based solutions in Colombia,” Advisor: Dr. Joel Correia

- **Sewon Ohr**, University of Texas at Austin – “Assessing Dam Impacts on Tropical River Ecosystems in Puerto Rico: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Vegetation Dynamics and Succession,” Advisor: Dr. Carlos Ramo-Scharrón

- **Samantha Saona**, Colombia University – “Practices of Order and Control: An Analysis of Four Legal-Spatial Planning Processes in Lima, Peru,” Advisor: Dr. Tom Slater

- **Sebastián Solarte-Caicedo**, UCLA – “Applying a Commons Lens to Study Historical Processes of Community-Led Energy in Rural Colombia,” Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Pincetl

- **(Li) Vachy Weizhi**, Clark University – “High-Resolution Mosquito Oviposition Risk Mapping in San Pedro de Jujuy, Argentina” Advisor: Dr. Florencia Sangermano

- **Ana Zepeda**, University of California, Davis – “Comparing Community Kitchens in Times of Crisis: Women-Led Community Kitchens, Food Security, and Disaster Resilience in Mexico,” Advisor: Dr. Amanda Crump



- **Juan-Manuel Velez-Villegas**, U. of Toronto – “Decolonizing Drug Policy in Colombia: Civil Society and the Ontological Struggle for Healing & Harm Reduction,” Advisor: Dr. Ryan Isakson

Masters Students (\$1,000 award):
- **Stephen Abbott**, U. of Toronto – “Livelihoods and Extraction: Oil in the Peruvian Amazon,” Advisor: Dr. Christian Abizaid

- **Erin Brorsen-Duncan**, U. of Wyoming – ““China” in the tianguis of Mexico,” Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Crane

- **Vicky Brown-Varela**, U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – ““La Exclusividad Tiene Nuevo Apartamento”: San José’s Green Mirage of Urban Exclusivity,” Advisor: Dr. Nikolai Alvarado

- **Delaney Demaret**, U. of Oxford – “Boundary work and forest governance: learning risk and resilience through participatory mapping in southwestern Amazonia,” Advisor: Dr. Aoife Bennett

Letter from the LASG Chair

Nicholas L. Padilla

9.June.2025

Estimad@s colegas,

The Annual Meeting of the AAG was held in Detroit, Michigan in March 2025, and it was a smashing success. As Sylvia, Jose-Benito, and I shared during our business meeting, the LASG remains in a stable position for now. It was lovely to reconnect with so many old colleagues as well as meet new ones. I left our business meeting and reception inspired by the incredible projects you all carry out, and my head was swimming with ideas.

Let's start with the exciting news. We received a number of highly competitive submissions for our three student awards, and we awarded four awards at this year's meeting. Our award winners were:

Fieldwork Award

Laura Botero Arellano (Ph.D., UT-Austin), (En)gendering the Mine: Gendered Violence, Territorial Dispossession, and Mineral Extraction in the Amazon Borderlands

Stephen Abbott (M.A., University of Toronto), Livelihoods and Extraction: Oil in the Peruvian Amazon

Best Paper Award

Mariam Asaba (M.S., University of Wyoming), The endurance of environmental defenders in Mexico and the constrained potential of the Escazú Agreement

Solidarity Award

Nushy Golriz, (Ph.D. candidate, UCLA)

Congratulations again to all award winners! Thank you to Jose-Benito Rosales Chavez, Sylvia Cifuentes, Max Counter, Taylor Tappan, and Amy Thompson for reviewing award submissions.

I also want to highlight the exceptional keynote co-sponsored by the *Journal of Latin American Geography* and the LASG. The lecture was titled *Weaving together the Americas: communities, bridges, belonging, from Abya Yala to Turtle Island*, and it featured a panel of four geographers reflecting on the intersections of Latin American and Latinx geographies, Lorena Muñoz (California Lutheran University), Sofia Zaragocin (University of Illinois), Yolanda Valencia (University of Maryland - Baltimore County), and Madelaine Cahuas (University of Minnesota). Their reflections on where they think from, how it shapes their work, and provocations challenged many of us in the audience to expand our framings of Latin America. Thank you to Gaby Valdivia for her tireless efforts to bring this panel of amazing scholars together!

It is officially fieldwork season for many of members of the LASG and CLAG. I wish you all happy, safe, and productive research seasons. Please keep us updated on your research. We love to hear about your newest work. For my part, I will spend this season finishing a number of writing projects and planning next year's trips to the field.

I remain hopeful in the current moment. As I write this, thousands of people continue to gather across Los Angeles in protest of aggressive immigration enforcement against allegedly undocumented people. The Trump administration has enrolled Latin American dictators into its systematic attacks against Latin@s to disappear people to prisons in El Salvador. We know that Latin America is not someplace out there. Rather, Latin America exists here across *el norte*. Increased immigration enforcement in our communities and classrooms demonstrates how fuzzy the boundaries between Latin American and the United States are. Our scholarship and teaching remain more important than ever in this context, and they offer us opportunities to speak out against fascism, xenophobia, and despair. Hope requires us to work in the face of these powerful forces.

Finally, this is my final newsletter contribution as the Chair of the Latin America Specialty Group of the AAG. I have enjoyed my three years on the Board, and I look forward to continued engagement with you all as I step down. Thank you all for your support, generosity, and kindness! I hope to see you in Puerto Vallarta in January!

Yours in solidarity,

Nick Padilla

Chair, LASG



Letter from the Co-Editors – JLAG

Martha Bell | Jessica Budds

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the midpoint of the year, and the Northern hemisphere Summer break, we are pleased to write with some updates from a busy last few months at *JLAG*.

We started the year with the 2025 *JLAG* Annual Lecture at the AAG in Detroit in March. As many of you know, the session is co-sponsored by CLAG and the Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) of the AAG. In a break from tradition, this year we decided to offer a panel discussion rather than a keynote lecture, because we felt this was an appropriate format to address a topic inspired by a discussion at the previous CLAG meeting in San Juan: that of the intersection between Latin American geography and Latinx studies. As such, we were very pleased to host a panel co-organized by our Associate Editor, Gabriela Valdivia, together with LASG chair, Nicholas Padilla, about Latin American-based, Latin Americanist, and Latinx Geographies, entitled “Weaving together the Americas: Communities, bridges, belonging, from Abya Yala to Turtle Island”. Our four invited panelists, Madelaine Cahuas (University of Minnesota–Minneapolis), Lorena Muñoz (California Lutheran University), Yolanda Valencia (University of Maryland–Baltimore County), and Sofía Zaragocín (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) discussed what a relationship between Latinx and Latin Americanist geographies could look like. A fuller report on the session can be found in the editorial to issue 24(1), which is open access in English, Portuguese and Spanish via Project Muse, and we aim to publish a series of *JLAG* Perspectives from the session in an upcoming issue.

We are pleased to announce that issue 24(1), the first issue of *JLAG* of 2025, was published at the end of May. We are deeply indebted to our editorial and production team, especially Associate Editors Eugenio Arima and Gabriela Valdivia, Book Review Editor Jörn Seemann, Visual Content and Cartography Editors Martin Gref and Guy Crawford, and Production Manager Yulia Garcia Sarduy, as well as our copyeditors, translators, and designer, for all of their efforts in putting the issue together.

The May issue included four research articles, in English and in Spanish, on diverse topics. In this issue you can read about the socio-ecological impacts of new regional road infrastructure that spans Peruvian and Brazilian Amazonia, the influences of land ownership and livestock production on the production of grana cochinilla in early seventeenth century New Spain, the restructuring of the agrarian sector in Argentina as a result of new land access law proposed in 2022, and the governance dynamics associated with the roll-out of land regularization—one of Lula’s keystone policies to reduce inequality—in northern Brazil. In addition, the issue includes three *JLAG* Perspectives, which constitute a “mini-forum” on the socio-ecological issues surrounding avocado cultivation and consumption. The section includes two analyses of avocado production in Mexico, and one of the expansion of production in Colombia, all of which are heavily driven by demand in the Global North, in particular the U.S. That said, agricultural producers across Latin America are facing new challenges and uncertainties in relation to current regime change in the U.S., as reflected in our choice of cover image for this issue.

We also address the effects of policy changes in the U.S. on academic geography in our editorial, which is published in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, and open access via Project Muse. In addition, given concerns over the effects of similar policy shifts in relation to migrants to and in the U. S., we have made a number of *JLAG* articles on this theme open access for the months of June and July.

As always, the latest issue contained reviews of a number of recently published books. At the recent Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in San Francisco in May, the book fair contained a huge collection of recent books on Latin America, many of which were from or relevant to geography. In other words, there is never a shortage of books to review! If you are interested in getting your book reviewed, writing a book review, or proposing a book review forum (a collection of reviews on the same book), please get in touch with our book review editor, Jörn Seemann (jseemann@bsu.edu).



JLAG at the LASA Book Fair in San Francisco, May 2025 (Jessica Budds)

As ever, 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 remind our readers that we are now on Bluesky (@jlatamgeog.bsky.social). Please join us there!

In addition, 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).

With our best wishes

Martha Bell

Jessica Budds

Co-editors, Journal of Latin American Geography



Martha Bell (left)
Jessica Budds (right)



New Publications

Articles

Ahmad, Z., Postigo, J. C., Rahman, F., Hussain, K., & Altaf, F. (2025). Changing Mountain Pastoralism and its Impacts in the Hindu Kush-Karakorum-Himalaya: The Case of Kushum, Pakistan. *Nomadic Peoples*, 29. <https://doi.org/10.3828/whpnp.63837646691066>

Alvarado, N. A. (2025). Nicaraguan exiles and the urbanization of refuge in Costa Rica. *Current History*, 124(859), 54–60. <https://doi.org/10.1525/curh.2025.124.859.54>

Alvarado, N. A. (2025). Urban infrastructure and migrant citizenships: Notes towards migrant-state relations in the urban peripheries. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23996544241312886>

Baudoin Farah, A. (2025). After the flood: expansion and retreat of Indigenous autonomy and environmental justice. *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17442222.2025.2498804>

Belury, L. (2025). Expanding queer architectural theory: Towards a framework of decolonial queer borderlands architecture. *Progress in Human Geography*, 49(3), 305–322. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03091325251334284>

Bocco, G. (2025). A.M. WinklerPrins, K. Mathewson (Eds.) (2024). Forest, Field, and Fallow: Selections from William Denevan. *Geographical Investigations*, (116). <https://doi.org/10.14350/rig.61013>

Bocco, G. (2025). El conocimiento tradicional del paisaje en comunidades indígenas mexicanas. *Naturaleza y Sociedad. Desafíos Medioambientales*, 12, 159–175. <https://doi.org/10.53010/nys.dia.07>

Correia, J. E., Walker, R. T., Simmons, C. S., Urgilés, C., Narváez Quenama, N., Yiyocuro, L., Payguaje, Y., Payguaje, H., Quenama, A., Acevedo, M., Manning, M., & Esbach, M. (2025). Biocultural Geographies: Stewardship, Indigenous Territories, and Conservation in Ecuador's Amazon. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2025.2511942>

Correia, J. E., Piaguaje, J., Weiss, L., Narváez, N., Lucitante, L., Biaguaje, A., Piaguaje, Y., Suale, A., Payaguaje, A., Simmons, C., & Esbach, M. (2025). Stimulating reciprocity: How human-plant relations support Indigenous cultural revitalization and stewardship in the Ecuadorian Amazon. *People and Nature*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.70019>

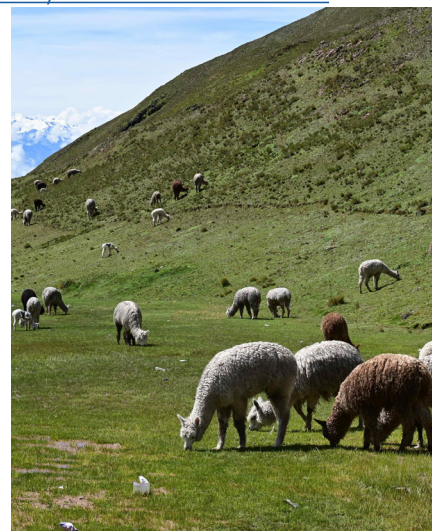
Correia, J. E. (2025). Demo-cartographic imaginaries: How dilemmas of data and erasure reveal latent authoritarianism and threats to Indigenous land rights in Paraguay. *Latin American Perspectives*, 52(3), 201–220. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094582X251327410>

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>

Esbach, M. Correia, J. E. Valdivia, G. & Lu, F. (2025). Amazonian conservation across archipelagoes of Indigenous territories. *Conservation Biology*, 39. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14407>

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- Harris, K. D., Tierney, J. E., Muñoz, S. E., & Anchukaitis, K. J. (2025). Climate variability in the Gulf of California over the last 1,300 years. *Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology*, 40(2), <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024PA004912>
- Hilburn, A. (2025). Bounded, Surveilled, and Imperiled: Spatial Dimensions of Environmental Injustice in a city on the U.S-Mexico Border. *Geographical Review*, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00167428.2025.2463665>
- Jakubchik-Paloheimo, M. (2025). Canada-Ecuador free trade agreement threatens Indigenous rights and territories in the Amazon. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/canada-ecuador-free-trade-agreement-threatens-indigenous-rights-and-territories-in-the-amazon-250974>
- Jokisch, B. D., & Blue, S. A. (2024). Increased Family and Child Migration to the United States from Latin America and the Caribbean: The Paradox of Protecting Children's Rights. *Journal of Latin American Geography*, 23(1)
- Lara-Valencia, F., García-Pérez, H., & Zuniga-Teran, A. (2024). Crossed by the border: children's lived experiences with flooding in an urbanized transborder watershed. *Children's Geographies*, 22(6), 844–859. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14733285.2024.2397733>
- McSweeney, K., Coleman, M., & Berman, D.A. (2025). The challenge of just federal sentencing for 'boat defendants.' *Federal Sentencing Reporter* 37(2): 103-122. <https://doi.org/10.1215/10539867-11692698>
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Alpacas grazing near Ulla Ulla, Bolivia. T. Perreault

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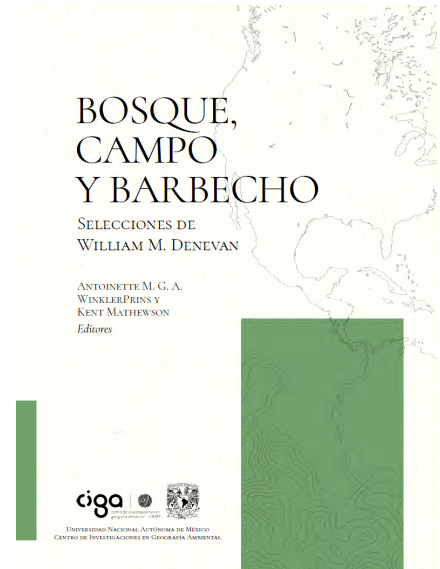
Este libro es una invitación a un recorrido, cual viaje por río, por el Trópico de Cochabamba y el norte yungueño de La Paz, pasando por el piedemonte encañonado donde inicia Rurrenabaque y se une con los Llanos de Moxos en Beni, hasta llegar a las rojizas tierras de Pando. Un recorrido por la Amazonía a través de su pasado, presente y futuro. Reflexionamos sobre la paradoja del bosque tropical más húmedo del planeta que ahora vive una crisis hídrica histórica; el *boom* minero aurífero y la generación de riqueza, y su relación con pasivos y degradación socioambiental; los cambios demográficos que llevan a las familias amazónicas a fluir entre el asentamiento y la movilidad; y las relaciones de todas estas dinámicas con estructuras regionales, nacionales y transnacionales. También exploramos las controversiales directrices de la comunidad internacional, que inyecta millonarios recursos económicos a la Amazonía para “salvarla” y conectarla, desvinculándola de su propia naturaleza.



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CLAG/LASG Member News

Member Awards and Grants

Brad Jokisch was awarded “Outstanding Faculty Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award” by the College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio University (Spring 2025).

David Lopez-Carr was awarded the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Human Dimensions of Global Change (HDGC) Specialty Group Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Award (2025). Awarded annually to an AAG HDGC member for professional activities that have taken action in the “face of disproportionate burdens of socio-ecological changes and intersecting injustices faced by diverse communities. The HDGC is among the top 4 most popular AAG Specialty Groups with between 400-500 members.



Adriana Zuniga-Teran won the 2025 Outstanding Mentor Award from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona.

Julio C. Postigo has been selected as a recipient of the Indiana University 2024-2025 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.

David Lopez-Carr: University of California Alianza MX and The Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC) Collaborative Research Proposal. UABCUCMX25-01. Wildfires in Baja California: From vulnerable to resilient communities and ecosystems. PI David Lopez-Carr, co-PIs Leila Carvalho, Charles Jones and Amy Frazier. March 1, 2025- February 28, 2027. \$59,985.

David Lopez-Carr: UC Alianza MX Small Grant Proposal. Hugo Loaiciga PI. D. López-Carr, co-PI. Water, environment, agriculture, and migration in the Mexicali Valley, Baja California. \$4,884. 3/30/2025.

Rebecca Clouser (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology): recipient of a 2025 AAG Research Grant to conduct fieldwork in Guatemala during the summer 2025.

Joel Correia: FIRES: Fire Impacts and Risk in (the Llanos de Moxos) social-Ecological Systems. CLAG members Andrea Baudoin Farah and Joel Correia (among others, detailed below) were awarded a Warner College of Natural Resources Dean's Grant for Transdisciplinary Approaches to Environmental Wicked Problems. The seed grant will support a project that examines wildfire dynamics in Bolivia's Llanos de Moxos savannas and wetlands. The team will develop a transdisciplinary platform connecting CSU researchers with Bolivian partners to understand fire impacts on ecosystems and communities. Other core team members include: Dr. Sandra Durán (Forest and Rangeland Stewardship), Dr. Stephanie Kampf (Ecosystem Science and Sustainability), Dr. Jessica O'Connell (Ecosystem Science and Sustainability), Dr. Camille Stevens-Rumman (Forest and Rangeland Stewardship), Zulema Lehm (Llanos de Moxos Working Group Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation Society Bolivia), Rob Wallace (Llanos de Moxos Landscape Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation Society Bolivia), Rebeca Rivero (Center for Research in Biodiversity and the Environment of the Autonomous University of Beni), Silvia Ten (Center for Research in Biodiversity and the Environment of the Autonomous University of Beni), Rodrigo Soria, (Asociación Armonía), and Tjalle Boorsma (Asociación Armonía).



Three of the team members. Left to right: Camille Stevens-Rumman, Andrea Baudoin-Farah, Joel Correia.

DOGE'd Grants

Joel Correia's research was recommended by the Human-Environment and Geographic Sciences program of the National Science Foundation for an Early Faculty Career Development award in December 2024. The project, titled "CAREER: Developing an integrated research and education program on biocultural approaches to the mitigation-adaptation nexus", is now in uncertain terrain following the effects of executive orders on the direction of U.S. science, the immediate impacts of DOGE on the NSF following its visit to the Foundation in April, and ongoing threats to U.S. science funding. Still waiting with baited breath...

Two of **Beth Tellman's** NSF grants (NSF Career- Addressing flood justice and equity impacts of adaptation and urban expansion with satellite observations and NSF RCN Catalyzing Flood Justice in the US) were terminated after DOGE started eliminating federal contracts at NSF for this given reason "NSF is issuing this termination to protect the interests of the government pursuant to NSF Grant General Conditions (GC-1) term and condition entitled 'Termination and Enforcement,' on the basis that they no longer effectuate the program goals or agency priorities. This is the final agency decision and not subject to appeal." She was awarded an NSF EAGER to keep some work ongoing, but does not replace the amount lost, nor does it have the environmental justice focus of the terminated awards.

Other News

The Center for Latin American Studies (<https://clas.arizona.edu/>) at the University of Arizona celebrated its 50th anniversary in April 2025 with a Symposium and Pachanga including many alumni. The Center has close connections to geography and geographers through core faculty members **Liz Oglesby** and **Margaret Wilder**, former Director **Diana Liverman**, and many affiliated faculty and students.

The University of Arizona's School of Geography, Development & Environment's Spring 2025 colloquium schedule included several talks on Latin American and border issues including **Carl Bauer** on his work on Chilean water issues, **Madelaine Cahuas** on Latinx geographies, and **Kimi Eisele** on arts activism and the border.

Recent Graduates and New Positions

Recent Graduates

Joycelin Van Caulart successfully defended her thesis entitled *[“We Have Faith to Endure It”: The Role of Rural Amazonian Christianity in Shaping Social Cohesion and Hazard Resilience in Ucayali, Peru](#)*. Joycelin received her MA in Geography in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto and was advised by Dr. Christian Abizaid.

Attached are photos from her fieldwork in Éxito (a village in Ucayali, Peru).



Dr. Claudia Díaz-Combs, PhD, Geography, Syracuse University graduated December 2024 (dissertation title: “When the water stops but the bills never do’: Contentious water politics and collective action in El Salvador”). Advised by Dr. Tom Perreault.

Dr. Akemi Inamoto, PhD Geography, graduated May 2025 (dissertation title: “Governing the paddies: Gender, class and dispossession among rice farmers in Colombia”); research funded by a Society of Woman Geographers-Evelyn Pruitt Fellowship for Doctoral Research). Advised by Dr. Tom Perreault.

Experiences, Pictures, and Fieldwork in Latin America

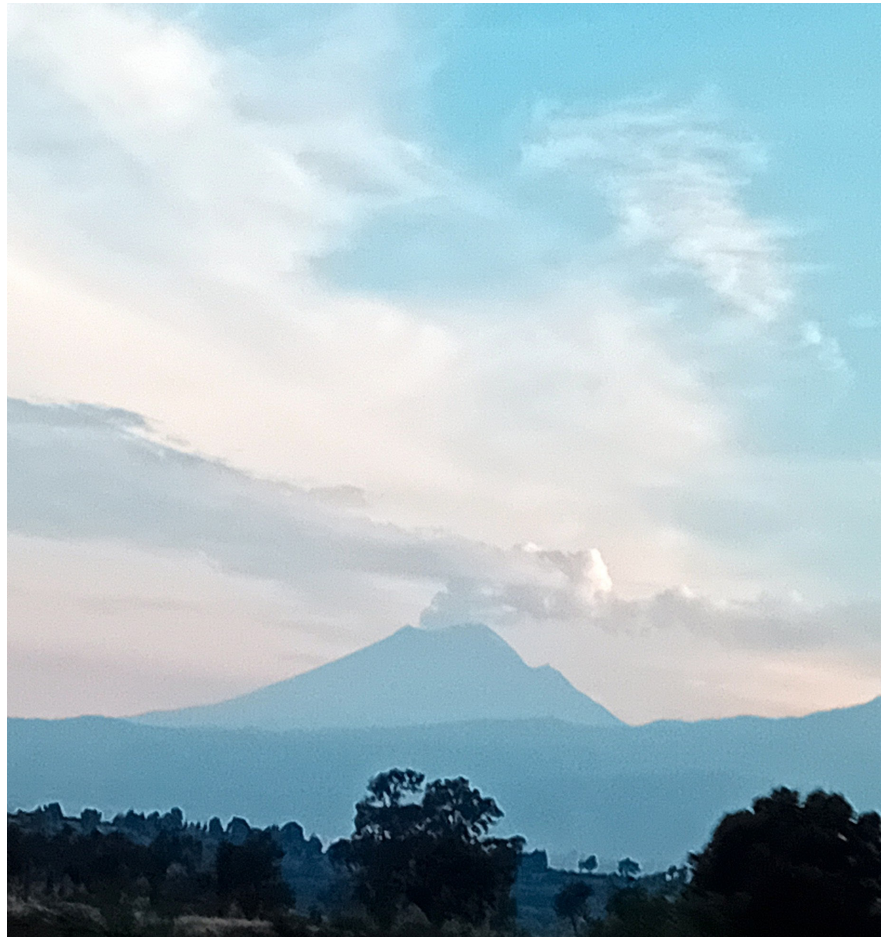
Anika Rice: Accompaniment and participatory photography workshops with women with migrant family members in Santa María Chiquimula, Totonicapán, Guatemala. From fieldwork on the tentatively titled project, “Land and livelihood migration: Gendered impacts and organizing in Guatemalan communities of origin”



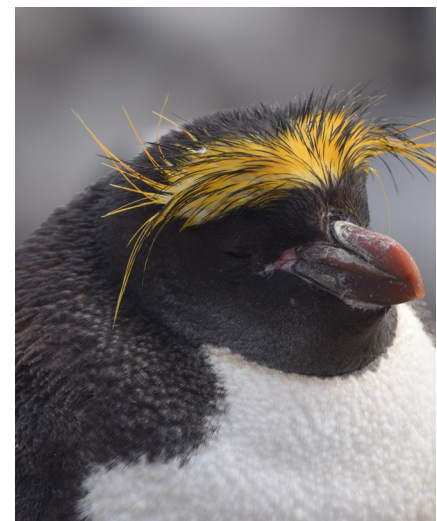
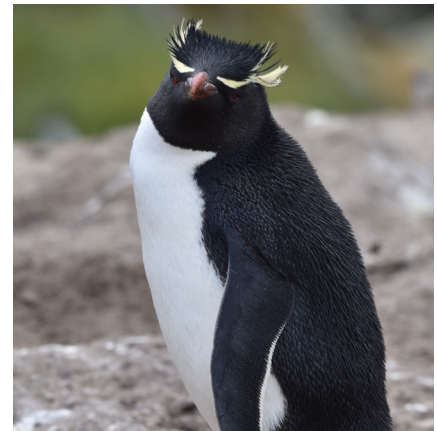
Elise Arellano-Thompson is living in Honduras for just under a year with the support of a Fulbright grant to conduct her research studying floods and vulnerability. While the majority of her fieldwork is conducted in San Pedro Sula and surrounding towns, these pictures are from adventures around Tegucigalpa and the Bay Islands of Honduras.



Michael McCall: Top left: Plaza Huamantla, Mexico. Top right: passing by Popo. Bottom: Pulqueria in Tlaxcala, Mexico.



James Kus, CLAG member of 50+ years: After retiring in 2011 (after 41 years teaching at Fresno State), James Kus led more than a dozen tours to Peru for Smithsonian, the Archaeological Institute of America, and several universities and private groups. Jim started lecturing on cruise ships around Latin America in 2013, initially on larger mass-market ships but for the past eight years exclusively on smaller ships for Oceania, Regent, and Viking. He has now gone through the Panama Canal more than 25 times and “Around the Horn” seventeen times. His favorite places remain northern coastal Peru and Patagonia (the attached photos are from two special excursions in search of Rock Hopper and Macaroni penguins at Cape Bougainville on the far north shore of East Falkland Island).



Hilda García Pérez: COLEF/ASU/UofA experiential-learning and water harvesting in the US-Mexico borderlands

After many lectures, mini-workshops, and fieldwork involving faculty and students from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Hilda García), Arizona State University (Francisco Lara) and the University of Arizona (Kenneth Kokroko), the team of the project Water Smart Border Cities presented its 2025 spring semester work to educators and other community members in Nogales, Sonora.

During the spring semester, students from ASU GlobalResolve/School of Transborder Studies and the UofA College of Planning and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA) worked with Mexican students in planning and building rain gardens in seven public schools and a migrant shelter as components of a binational green infrastructure network connecting Nogales, Sonora and Nogales Arizona. The students also produced 3D models and cartography of the watershed, as well as several other educational materials designed to help teachers educate their students about the impact of urbanization on the water cycle and the potential benefits of nature-based solutions.

The project seeks to protect and restore the Ambos Nogales Watershed, a binational basin impacted by urbanization and ecological fragmentation, by providing teachers with educational tools that are culturally appropriate and place-based to promote nature-based solutions in dealing with flooding, water scarcity, and lack of green space.

This project stage was supported by [ASU GlobalResolve](#) and Tucson's [Water Management Group](#) (WMG) through a grant from the [Commission of Environmental Commission](#). For an overview of the activities and products of the project this spring, see the following StoryMap: [Water Smart Border Cities: Implementing Nature Inspired Solutions in Ambos Nogales](#).



Left: Student showing the location selected for a rain garden

Right: Teachers, students and volunteers constructing a rain garden



Martha Bell: A group from the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (CEOAS) at Oregon State University (OSU) traveled to Lima, Peru, to participate in the XVII Coloquio Internacional de Estudiantes de Geografía y Medio Ambiente de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), from May 28-30, 2025.

The Centro de Estudiantes de Geografía y Medio Ambiente PUCP (CEGMA), advised by Dr. Martha Bell, organized the three-day colloquium, which is an annual event that aims to create a space for reflection and interaction among students, researchers, and public and private institutions. The colloquium seeks to disseminate the roles of geographic and environmental sciences, as well as dialogue with related disciplines.

The group from OSU included Assistant Professor **Dr. Kelsey Emard**, PhD student **Lorena Cardenas**, and three undergraduate students: **Kenna Cortes Bernandin**, **Carlos Rodarte Meza**, and **Nicholas Cramer**. Each presented their research on diverse topics such as land use change in Costa Rica, climate change and intersectionality in the Peruvian Andes, food apartheid, phenological changes in tree species in Oregon's Willamette Valley, and the impacts of artificial intelligence on cartography. For the entire group, the colloquium was an excellent opportunity to share findings, engage with other geographers, receive valuable feedback, and present their work in Spanish.

In addition to participating in the colloquium, the OSU group had the opportunity to connect with Peruvian institutions and organizations. The itinerary included visits to the Sociedad Geográfica de Lima, fieldwork in Chacacayo with the NGO Practical Action, a visit to the Main Wholesale Market (Mercado Mayorista N°2), a meeting with the Dirección General de Estadística, Seguimiento y Evaluación de Políticas (DGESEP) at the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), and an academic exchange with the Centro de Investigación en Geografía Aplicada (CIGA) at PUCP.

Apart from the group from OSU, CEGMA-PUCP was pleased to welcome geography students from across Latin America to present their research, including **Misael Morales** and **Elena Reynoso Iniesta** from the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana- México, **Luis Manuel Rodriguez Santos** and **Alberto Ocampo Cruz** from the Universidad de Guadalajara- Mexico, **Emmanuel Coz Alarcón** from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais -Brazil, and **Luis Ernesto Cuenca Usmayo** from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés- Bolivia.



OSU group in Lima. From left to right: Nicholas Cramer, Kenna Cortes Bernandin, Carlos Rodarte Meza, Lorena Cardenas, Kelsy Emard.



The CEGMA-PUCP organizing committee. From left to right: Joaquin Montoya, Dafne Raymundo, Javier Esparza, Daphna Cisneros, Estefanía Aldana, Martha Bell.



The OSU group exploring Chacacayo, Peru with Abel Cisneros of Practical Action Peru (and PUCP Geography graduate!).

Note from the CLAG Communications Coordinator

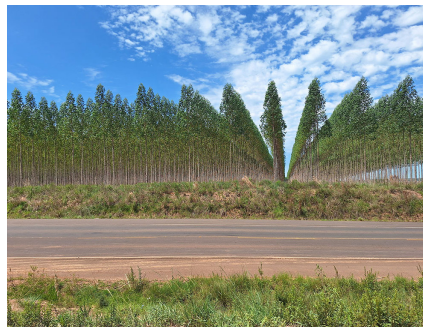
Tim Norris

As we start to wind up for another in-person CLAG, don't forget to take a look at the Student Field Grant Reports from 2023 and 2024. Most of the 2023-24 field reports are now posted on clagscholar.org under the tag "[Field Reports](#)." There are many inspirational stories to be found in this student work. Apart from informing seasoned academics about novel approaches to field work, these stories serve as a guide for future travel grant applicants. Please take some time to browse the reports and share with others as you feel appropriate.

Kind regards
Tim Norris
CLAG Communications Coordinator



[Juan Carlos Jimenez in El Salvador](#)



[Jamie C. Gagliano in Paraguay](#)



[Celeste Gunderson in Peru](#)



[Leonardo Calzada in Mexico](#)



[Gonzalo Martínez Herrera in Mexico](#)



[Vaclav Masek in Guatemala](#)



[Alfredo Escudero in Peru and Bolivia](#)



[Elena Bell in Brazil](#)

Opportunities, Conferences, and other Activities

Upcoming Conferences

Conferencia de Geoinformación 2025, 24 al 28 de noviembre de 2025, Mérida, Yucatán, México

Este encuentro albergará 3 congresos:

16th GeoInformation for Disaster Management (Gi4DM),

XXVI Congreso Nacional SELPER México y

XI Jornadas de Educación SELPER de Centro América y el Caribe.

<https://www.selper.org.mx/conferencia-de-geoinformacion-2025/>

Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference

Diversity and Resilience

Albuquerque, NM

November 5-8, 2025

Hosted by University of New Mexico

The Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference brings together diverse groups of scholars to facilitate research on race and ethnicity.

In 2025, REP will be hosted by the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The theme of the 2025 REP conference, Diversity and Resilience, addresses how scholars can respond to ongoing attacks on diversity. All topics are welcome though.

We call for original papers, paper sessions, and panel submissions that focus on race, ethnicity, and diversity.

<https://repconference.org/>

Opportunities

Eric Carter (Macalester College) continues to serve as the Associate Editor for Geography of the Latin American Research Review. I would like to encourage geographers to submit their work to the LARR. We are open to considering any original and innovative research in Latin American(ist) geography (and related interdisciplinary fields, like urban studies or environmental studies). Feel free to contact me directly with ideas for articles you would like to submit, or if I can answer any questions for you (ecarter@macalester.edu).



Latin American
Research Review



Note from the CLAG Newsletter Editor

Elise Arellano-Thompson

June 30, 2025

Queridos CLAGistas and LASG members,

Happy summer to all!

I write to you from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where the layers of culture, transformation, and complexity that is shared with so much of Latin America feel especially present. As we navigate this summer of 2025, there's no escaping the reality of what the past six months under the current US administration have meant for the region we study and love, and also for the important spaces in academia in which we share our intellect. The impacts are everywhere we look. From the dissolution of USAID leaving countless community organizations without funding, to asylum protections being stripped away, to massive budget cuts threatening research funding and the projects that depend on it. The infrastructure that supports our critical scholarship feels under siege.

But here's what gives me hope: the work our community does has never felt more essential. Reading through everyone's newsletter submissions is incredibly powerful and uplifting, especially in the face of uncertainty and hopelessness.

Thank you to everyone who sent in their incredible work for this newsletter. Your submissions remind us that intellectual community endures, that knowledge-sharing continues, and that we're not facing this alone. Keep up the amazing work and support. Though it is still six months away, I look forward to hopefully seeing many of you at the conference in Puerto Vallarta, hearing more about the important work we all do, and continuing these important conversations!

Con cariño y resistencia,
Elise

