

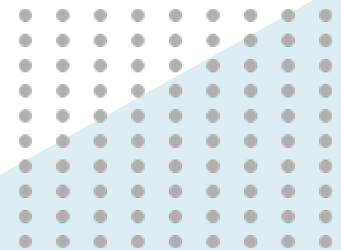
Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies program Newsletter 2021-2022



"Te Alcanzo", Delaine Gneco La Cruz,
Winner of the 2022 Jane's Photography Prize

Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies Program

We are excited to continue to celebrate the existence of LACLS as we reflect on the past 59 years of our program and community!



Newsletter Edited by Mangok Bol

A note from the Chair

Saludos everyone!

As I write this summer is rolling by, sunny days finally breaking through. I hope your holidays have started on a good note, after a challenging year still in the shadow of the pandemic. These are my final weeks as chair of LACLS: this summer, we welcome Prof. Elizabeth Ferry as incoming chair. My thanks to both Elizabeth and Prof. Faith Smith for serving as interim chairs in AY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, while I was on sabbatical in L.A. And to Mangok Bol for his continuing work as our stellar and always kind-hearted program administrator, as well as to our amazing UDRs, Catherine Romero and Alex Bazarsky, wishing them all the best with their future plans.

This year, we endeavored to build on efforts from previous years and foster new initiatives that continue to crystallize the program's evolving identity. We worked alongside our allies in programs such as AAAS and Art History to highlight for the administration the urgent need for more tenure-line faculty whose research and teaching foregrounds the experiences of communities of color in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the U.S. We are happy to report that a search for a tenure-track position in the history of Latin American/Latinx/Afro-Latinx Art has been authorized for next year.

Our faculty offered many exciting courses and organized several events throughout this past year. These included, among many other highlights: María Durán's workshop for María

Bernardi's play *Under the Skin*, held as part of her course on Latinx Theater; Greg Childs and Elizabeth Ferry's new co-taught course, "Sugar: Cultivation, Circulation, Power," which featured guest lectures from Vincent Brown, Amy Moran-Thomas and Charlotte Goudge and a visit to the "Bittersweet" exhibition at the Somerville Museum; and the screening of Emily Cohen Ibañez's acclaimed documentary *Fruits of Labor*, organized by Patricia Álvarez Astacio and co-hosted by LACLS alumna Alejandra Bonilla.

LACLS also created a new grant opportunity that expands our annual research and travel grants, *the LACLS Grant for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration*, to fund projects focusing on the histories, experiences, and/or artistic production of BIPOC communities in the Americas. The first cycle of this new grant proved to be highly successful, drawing many compelling proposals from both of faculty and students across the university. The success of this grant, whose inaugural recipients are featured in a special section of this newsletter, encourage our core faculty to continue a substantial rethinking of LACLS as a space where issues of race, ethnicity and diaspora in the Americas take center stage. While within the lifespan of a program like ours this is a relatively young collective endeavor, it is also one we've been working towards, with mixed results, for the past many years. We look forward to a future where the baby steps we have taken in this regard blossom into a new presence for LACLS as a visible agent of structural change within the university. There is a possible—perhaps even eventual—future where our program would not only

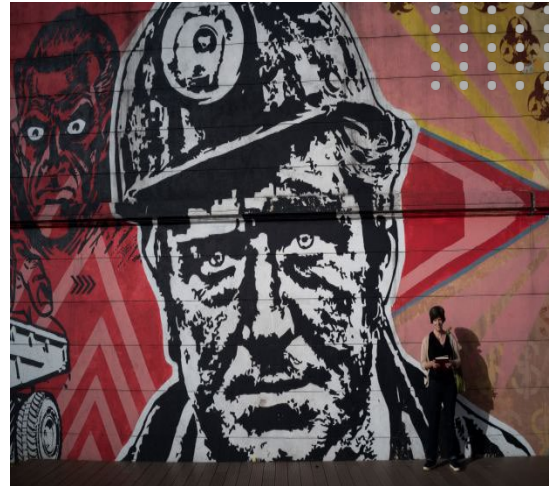
“add to” efforts for more inclusion and diversity (always easier said than done) but actively *challenge* longstanding and often unchecked practices of feeling and thought that have institutionalized whiteness and privilege at all levels of the curriculum and university life, including, of course, LACLS itself and its many affiliated departments and programs – work in progress...

On a personal note, and as I step down from my current position, I'd like to say that serving as LACLS chair has been one of the highlights of my 10+ years here. I will continue to cheer you on and cherish all your efforts and successes from the West Coast! With warmest wishes for a happy summer and a successful year ahead,

Jerónimo

Statement from the incoming chair

Greetings! It's my pleasure to step in as chair of LACLS for a three-year term beginning in fall 2022. I am very excited by the current state of the program and the projects fostered by our outgoing Chair Jerónimo Arellano, including exciting new courses and faculty, a vibrant group of students, and a new grant program to support projects related to race, ethnicity and migration. I look forward to the opportunity to continue these initiatives. I especially welcome the chance to work with students within and beyond the program and with student groups on campus. Please reach out to me at ferry@brandeis.edu with any ideas, suggestions, or just to say hello!



Elizabeth Ferry
Incoming chair, LACLS

Introducing LACLS UDRS

Daphne Ballesteros, Daphne is a junior double majoring in Latin American, Caribbean, & Latinx Studies and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies with an interest in sociology. Outside from academics, she work as a Pride Rep with the GSC, serve as president of the Brandeis Latinx Student Organization, and work as an undergraduate research assistant. As LACLS incoming UDR for the 2022-2023 academic year she hope to expand interest in the department and serve as a resource for students both enrolled/interested in it. She plan to study abroad in Ecuador for fall 2022. (Insert image)

Sasha Soboleva, Sasha is a senior at Brandeis majoring in Linguistics and minoring in Latin American studies. She is an international transfer student from Russia, and before Brandeis, she studied at two different universities both home and abroad. She got interested in Latin America as a region when she was learning Spanish and Portuguese and found remarkable similarities between Latin America and her

home region. Currently, she is doing a research about language attitudes and ideologies of Spanish and Quechua in Cusco, Peru. As LACLS UDR, she hope to organize more events devoted to Latin American cultures and languages. She is also striving to connect Brandeis students with alumni that have work experience in the region. (Insert image of udr)

Jess Morales, My name is Jessica Morales, UDR for LACLS and Lead UDR for Humanities. I am incredibly excited to work with you all and the faculty to make this year great. I am a senior majoring in HSSP and minoring in LACLS, hoping to attend nursing school the following year. Some fun facts about me: I have a German Shepherd named Chase, I am of Colombian and Cuban descent, and I am on the national fencing team for the country of Colombia. If you have any questions about LACLS/Humanities or would just like to chat, feel free to reach out! Can't wait to meet you all this semester.

Congratulations to our graduating LACLS program seniors

Majors Class of 2022

Catherine Gisele Romero

Aerionna Le Taye Stephenson

Minors Class of 2022

Gil Bohm

Jacqueline Meza

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LACLS Program and Events

We believe that the LACLS program has a responsibility to collaborate with students to ensure that we support ideas and visions that are introduce to us. Hence why, each year the LACLS program is excited to Host and Co-Host several events to support the vision and learning of students and staff across departments on campus and beyond.

Some of the highlight for this past year include a visit to the Somerville Museum, to see an exhibition “Bittersweet” with a private showing guided by the artist, Santiago Montoya and the curator, José Falconi. Students read work by C.L.R. James, Sidney Mintz, Ashanté Reese, and others, and produced multimodal projects including academic essays, podcasts, playlists, and needlepoint. See images on the next page.

LACLS PROGRAM EVENTS

May 2 & 6, 2022

LACLS Annual Luncheon

We gathered on zoom and in-person with graduating LACLS students and Janes Award and Prizes recipients to celebrate another year with our program.

April 25, 2022

Amy Moran-Thomas, Associate Professor of Anthropology, MIT, "Travelling with Sugar"

March 30, 2022

Vincent Brown, Charles Warren Professor of History, African and African-American Studies, Harvard University, "The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery."

March 12-13, 2022

"Bittersweet," Art Exhibition by Santiago Museum, Somerville Museum. Exhibition tour led by the artist and curator José Falconi.

February 17, 2022

"Fruits of Labor," a documentary by Emily Cohen Ibañez. Virtual screening followed by Q&A with the filmmaker led by Patricia Alvarez Astacio, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, and LACLS alumna Alejandra Bonilla.

December 2, 2021

Niki Nakazawa, Founding Partner, NETA Spirits, "Commercializing Agave Spirits Ethically."

November 3, 2021

LACLS Meet the Majors

Hosted by LACLS UDRs Alex Bazarsky and Catherine Romero.

October 19, 2021

"*Under the Skin: Workshop of a New Play*" Workshop lead by Prof. María Durán, Assistant Professor of Latinx Cultural Studies, and award-winning playwright Catherine Filloux



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- **Janes Prizes and Award Recipients**

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- **Jane’s Travel and Research Grant Awards, fall 2021**

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- **Rynn Parrack,**
"Post-Pinochet Chile and Justice"

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- **Delaine Gneco De La Cruz**
"Una raza encendida, negra, blanca y taína: the Dominican Republic"

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- **Jane’s Travel and Research Grant Awards, spring 2022**

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- **Abigail Beckham,**
"Is God Re-Creating Earth? Bahamian Christians’ Interactions with Climate Change"?

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- **Changhong Zhang**
"Ethnographic and Archival Research in China: What happens before the transfer of Chinese money and labor to Latin America"?

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- **Alex Bazarsky**
"Excavation and Ground Verification of Lacanjá Tzeltal Post-LiDAR Analysis"

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- **Zoe Lacroix**
"Behind the Scenes of Rastafarian Social Activism through Music"

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- **Spring 2022 Essay Prize Recipients**

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- **Delaine Gneco De La Cruz**
"Boston's foreign-born: an asset or a burden?"

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- **Spring 2022 Photography Prize Recipients**

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- **Delaine Gneco De La Cruz**
"Te alcanzo"
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New Grant for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration, Spring 2022

Established in fall 2021, this new grant cycle supports projects and initiatives that demonstrate a substantial engagement with questions of race, ethnicity, and/or diaspora across Latin America, Caribbean, U.S. Latinx communities in the Americas and around the world. Projects focused on race, ethnicity, and/or immigration of a comparative and transcultural nature, connecting Latin America and the Caribbean to other regions of the world, are also welcome.

In the spring 2022, the grant selection committee selected the following seven creative and/or research-based projects as the inaugural grant recipients from a competitive pool of applicants (Listed below according to grant category, in alphabetical order):

Creative Arts Projects

Patricia Alvarez Astacio, Greg Childs, and Elizabeth Ferry

“Two Islands: Memories of Sugar” - Two documentary shorts on former sugar plantations, labor and racialization in Puerto Rico and Cuba

Daniella Castillo Vasquez and Catherine Romero

“Diasporic Intimacies” – A documentary short that follows two college seniors and the connections between their identities through education, family, culture, and immigration.

Delaine Gneco De La Cruz

“Dilema Existencial” – A fiction short film. Through a simple “who am I?” assignment, Abigail struggles to find a place where her race and culture as an Afro-Latina identity could be consolidated.

Research-Based Projects

Michala Coates

“Reclamation of the Black Womb” – An essay on radical Black practices created by and for the survival of Black women, focusing in part on Caribbean women.

Julian Madera.

“Colonization for the Masses: Black-Creole Perspectives of Hospitality Labor in Post-Colonial Jamaica” –A field-work based research project exploring hospitality workers in the tourism industry in Jamaica.

Student- Led Reading or Working Groups

Camila Martinez

“Dominican literature book club”- A book club that introduces young Latinx, and especially Dominican students, to books by and about Dominicans, with focus on the representation of BIPOC Dominicans.

Arantxa Ortiz

“Emergent Migrant Citizenships of Latin American and Caribbean Residents in Amsterdam” –A community gathering for Latin American and Caribbean Amsterdam residents to discuss how their diasporic positionalities inform and shape their political and social participation in the city.



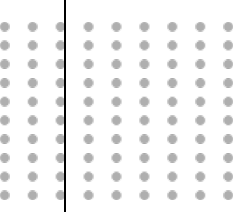
Janes Prizes and Award Recipients

Rynn Parrack, “As a Jane’s Travel grant recipient, I was able to extend my stay in Chile after finishing my study abroad program to research the impact of what justice means for citizens who were tortured during the Pinochet regime. As part of my research, I spoke with a lawyer about the legal process to seek reparations and was able to study a case through work one-on-one with a victim. I also went to many memorial museums, including Villa Grimaldi in Las Condes, the National Stadium in Santiago, and the former Naval Academy in coastal Valparaíso.”

“The resources I accessed in Chile were essential to understanding the context of the dictatorship, the purpose of the Chilean Institute for Human Rights, and the laws that allowed victims or families of victims to seek formal acknowledgment from the government and the opportunity to ask for more reparations from the Ministry of Human Rights. The impact the research had on my academics is indelible and I am honored to have been able to travel to Chile to learn about the direct and indirect impacts of “justice” for people who, up to this point, have received very little monetary support or policy changes from their government who promised to bring those who suffered peace and opportunities after their experiences.”

Xuantong He, “The pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. When my study abroad program in Argentina was canceled and everything turned online, I decided to take a gap semester and go to Chile. I spent the first half of 2021 in Chile where I worked at a hostel in the beautiful coastal city of Valparaíso and then worked at a Chilean think tank as a researcher in Santiago. During my stay in Chile, I noticed a group of Chinese migrants who engaged in transnational businesses. These people have been seen not only in Chile but in other developing economies across the world, most notably in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Their intermediary role of bringing merchandise from the “World Factory” to millions of billions of households has been overlooked in our understanding of the global economy. While retail giants like Walmart or Amazon utilize their own resources to find suppliers in China, countries with little or none of their presence rely on individual commercial migrants to bring products to their customers. Toys, textiles, auto parts, kitchenwares...thousands of Chinese commercial migrants were the people behind China's commercial ties with the world.”

“The Jane's Travel and Research Grant allowed me to travel across Chile, from Iquique to Punta Arenas. Because this is a quite understudied topic where previous sources are very scarce, I had to heavily rely on first-hand sources. I was able to meet and interview many Chinese commercial migrants across Chile and build deeper connections with my interviewees so that they would introduce me to other relevant people or institutions. It was absolutely a great opportunity for me to become the “pioneer” in this area of China - Latin America commercial connection.”



Faculty Highlights

Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology)

In 2021-2022, I published an article on "Materialities and Substances" for the edited volume, *The Anthropology of Resource Extraction*, published by Routledge Press. I participated in a series of scholarly convenings in preparation for the 2023-24 exhibition "El Dorado" to be co-organized by Americas Society, New York; Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires; and Museo Amparo, Puebla. I received a Mandel Public Humanities grant to work with the foundation Ojo Rojo Fábrica Visual, based in Bogotá, on an exhibition that is focused on historical memory of the War of Villarrica, Tolima, and accompanying book. The project is also supported by the Comisión de la Verdad established in the Colombian Peace Accords. I also continued work on my book, "Gold Matters: Elemental Worldmaking in Mining and Finance," with fieldwork in Marmato, Colombia.

Sarah Mayorga (Sociology)

In 2021-2022 Dr. Mayorga, along with Sarah, Megan Underhill, and Lauren Crosser. 2022 published. "I hate that Food Lion!: Grocery shopping, racial capitalism, and everyday disinvestment." *City and Community*. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F15356841221091811>

Fernando Rosenberg (Hispanic Studies)

In July 2022, Dr. Rosenberg was a guest speaker and participant in *The Future of Gender*, a Mellon Foundation workshop at the American Academy in Berlin, Germany, this July 2022.

This summer 2022 Dr. Rosenberg published an article, "Avant-Gardes in Latin America: A Polemical Intervention on Historical and Neo-Vanguardias" in the Routledge Companion to Twentieth and Twenty-First

Century Latin American Literary and Cultural Forms.

Two other articles are forthcoming this fall 2022:

"Beyond the patriarchal family: vulnerability, interdependency and feminist alliances" in *Modern Language Notes*, forthcoming Vol. 137, No. 2 (2022) and "Mothering: Strange familiarities in three recent novels" in a special issue of *Revista Iberoamericana* on emerging women writers in Latin America

Faith Smith (English, AAAS)

a) In June 2022, Faith gave a talk at the University of Amsterdam: "In Time? Out of time? Marking Time in Caribbean Aesthetics"

b) In Fall 2022 I will be a fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Studies, working on my third monograph, "DreadKin": <https://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/2022-2023-Fellows-Announcement>

Javier Urcid

Publications

(Forthcoming) Bodily Transformation and Sacralization: Human Sacrifice in Southwestern Mesoamerica.

In Human Sacrifice in Ancient Mesoamerica: New Evidences and Theoretical Perspectives, edited by Linda Hansen and Ruben Mendoza, Springer International.

(Forthcoming) Qué tan antiguas son las piedras grabadas en el Museo de la Casa del Mendrugo en Puebla? Arqueología Mexicana.

Projects

With Marc Levine (Sam Noble Museum and Anthropology department, University of

Oklahoma) and Alex Badillo (Department of Earth and Environmental Systems, Indiana State University) collaborated in an archaeological 3D visualization project titled Archaeology at Monte Alban's Main Plaza.

On commission, crafted a computer-generated isometric view of the interior of the Temple of the Warriors in Chichén Itzá, Yucatán, Mexico.

Collaborated with Pingle, a bookstore of rare books in Paris, in the successful return to Mexico of a series of unpublished sketches and drawings of one of the illustrators who at the turn of the 20th century worked for the Oaxacan historian Manuel Martínez Gracida.

Collaborated with Lorena De Graci, Art Historian from the Escuela Superior de Educación Artística Manuel Belgrano in Argentina, in identifying plaster casts of Mesoamerican inscribed monuments in the collections of the Universidad de Buenos Aires' Taller de Restauración, Catalogación y Conservación.

Collaborated with Daniel Schavelson, of the Centro de Arqueología Urbana of the Universidad de Buenos Aires, in identifying a plaster cast of an ancient inscribed Zapotec monument in the Museo de La Plata.

Collaborated with Marisa Alvarez Icaza, curator of a continually rotating exposition titled "Xaltlolloli , espacio de artes, memoria y resistencia" that opened in November 2021 at UNAM's Centro Cultural Universitario in Tlatelolco, Mexico City.

LACLS Faculty Courses

All LACLS Faculty courses

LALS 1A Introduction to Latin

American/LatinX: Cultures, Histories, and Societies

LALS 152A Race and Nation in the Caribbean

AAAS 124A After the Dance: Performing Sovereignty in the Caribbean

AAAS 125B Caribbean Women and Globalization: Sexuality, Citizenship, Work

ANTH 55A Anthropology of Development

ANTH 107A Wealth, Value and power in a world without money.

ANTH 119A Conquests, Resistance, and Cultural Transformation in Mexico and Central America

ANTH 131B Latin America in Ethnographic Perspective

ANTH 136A Archaeology of Power: Authority, Prestige, and Inequality in the Past

ANTH 137B GIS: Mapping Culture from Land, Air and Space

ANTH/HIST 143A Sugar: Cultivation, Circulation and Power

ANTH 147B Mesoamerican Civilizations and Their Legacies

ANTH 148A Media and Latin America

ANTH 152A The Social Fabric: An anthro of Fashion

ANTH 153A Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

ANTH 156A Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

ENG 127B Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts
ENG 168B Plotting Inheritance

HISP 85A Introduction to Latinx Literature and Culture

HISP 108A Spanish for Heritage Speakers

HISP 111B Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture.

HISP 122B Made in las Americas: Stories about Growing up Latinx

HISP 152B Monsters, Creatures and Cyborgs

HISP 155A Wall Power: Muralism and Resistance in (Latin) American Art

HISP 158A Latina Feminisms

HISP 160A Culture/Media and Social Change in Latin America

HISP 162B New Latin American Cinema: From revolution to the Market

HISP 163B Narratives of the Borderlands and Border Crossers

HISP 164B Studies in Latin American Literature

HIST 175B Resistance and Revolution in La

HISP 178B Latinx Futurisms

HISP 182A Storytelling in the Drug Wars

HISP 193B Topics in Cinema.

HISP 198A Experiential Research Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies

HIST 71B Latin American and Caribbean

History I: Colonialism, Slavery, and Freedom

HIST 162A Writing on the world: Histories of the Graffiti in Americas

HIST 171A Haiti and the Modern Caribbean

HIST 172b Historicizing the black Radical Tradition

LACLS Faculty Courses

POL 144A Latin American Politics

POL 128A the Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World

POL 161B Good Neighbor or Imperial Power: The Contested Evolution of US-Latin American Relation