

Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



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After almost two years of working from home, it has been great to return to the LAC and be able to see colleagues, students and visitors in-person again. One of the positives to come out of the pandemic has been the shift to hybrid working. We now both split our time between the office and home so we have the best of both worlds!

Lucy and Elvira (and Ruby)



Meet the editorial team:

Horizontes, the newsletter of the Latin American Centre, is the product of a collective effort that relies upon the editorial planning of a team of LAC students and members of academic and administrative staff, coordinated by Eduardo Posada-Carbó. This issue counted on the special collaboration of Sarah Philips, MPhil student during 2021-23. Our special thanks also to Andrew Harvey for his super work in designing *Horizontes*.

Director's Report

David Doyle
Director, the Latin American Centre



This was the LAC's first proper academic year with all activities running as normal since the pandemic. It was a successful and rewarding year, if challenging at times.

We had another busy year welcoming visitors from the region. At the very start of the academic year, we welcomed a delegation from the Dominican Republic, including the Minister of Education and the Ambassador, to officially launch ten new scholarships for students of the Dominican Republic to study at Oxford. Later in the year, this was followed by a visit from another delegation from the Dominican Republic, this time representing Congress. In January, Former President of Colombia, Mr Iván Duque Márquez, held an informal conversation on 'The Current State of Latin America' with LAC students, faculty members, and academic visitors. And in May, Carlos Scartascini, Head of the Development Research Group at the Research Department and Leader of the Behavioural Economics Group of the Inter-American Development Bank, presented the Bank's new report on trust and social cohesion.

As we welcomed our new cohort of students this year, we also celebrated our network of former students and held a wonderful alumni drinks reception at the In and Out Club on St James's Square in London, in conjunction with The Canning Club. We are very grateful for the support of the Argentine Educational Trust, which through the William de Segundo scholarship, continues to offer financial support to one of our students. We will be holding another alumni evening this coming autumn at the In and Out Club on November 1st. Please keep an eye out for tickets! It promises to be a fantastic evening.

And we have continued to celebrate the success of our faculty. In February, Francesca Lessa visited Duke University as winner of the 2023 [Juan E. Méndez Book Award](#) for Human Rights in Latin America for her highly acclaimed book, [The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America](#) (Yale University Press, 2022). The judges were unanimous in choosing her as the winner, praising her book which exposes the secrets

of Operation Condor, a transnational system of repression in South America between 1969 and 1981. Congratulations Francesca! We are very proud of you. In May, Julia Zulver, our current Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the LAC and OSGA won the Conflict Research Society (CRS) prize for her book, *High-Risk Feminism in Colombia: Women's Mobilization in Violent Contexts*. Julia will accept the prize in London in mid-September. Congratulations Julia! And in September, The Academia de Historia de Venezuela elected three new Corresponding Members: our own Eduardo Posada-Carbó, Emeritus Fellow, Malcolm Deas, and LAC associate, Brian McBeth. This is a wonderful honour for all three, and indirectly a recognition of the consistent involvement of the Latin American Centre with Venezuela since its foundation.

And this year, the LAC community was delighted to celebrate with Andreza de Souza Santos, the birth of her son, Leo. Congratulations to Andreza and her new family!

This is only a small sample of the successes shared by our colleagues at the LAC - I don't have the space to do justice to the achievements of everybody but it is indicative of the intellectual activity and energy of the Centre.

This success, however, wouldn't be possible without the support of our alumni community through the Malcom Deas Fund. Or the support of entities like the Argentine Educational Trust. Or the continued links and bridges we continue to build and establish with organisations like the CAF Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Thank you to you all.

This year has also been a year of change. Andreza left the LAC to take up the post of Director of the Brazil Institute at King's College London and Francesca will leave us this summer to join UCL's Institute of the Americas as an Associate Professor. Javier Pérez Sandoval also leaves us to take up a BA Postdoctoral Fellowship in the DPIR. All three have been wonderful colleagues and I wish them all the very best in the next stages of their careers. They will always be welcome at the LAC.

But with these departures, came new arrivals. We are delighted to be joined this year by Dan McDonald, a historian of modern Latin America who specializes in the study of Brazil. Dan will be a Postdoctoral Fellow at the LAC as part of a transnational project, ["The Global Pontificate of Pius XIII: Catholicism in a Divided World"](#) convened around the recent release of records from the papacy of Pope Pius XII (1939-58). We have also been joined this year by Dan Robins, a human geographer working on issues around human mobility and immobility with a focus on Latin America. Dan is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow working on the project, 'New Strategies of Survival in Venezuela: migration and alternative remittances'. And next year, we looking forward to welcoming back our two Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellows, Julia Zulver and Maryhen Jiménez Morales. This summer, Laura Trajber Waisbich will be joining us as the new Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme. Laura first joined the University of Oxford in 2022 as a Social Sciences Division Postdoctoral Fellow. Laura is particularly interested in unpacking the disputes surrounding the growing role of rising powers countries like China, India, and Brazil in the geopolitical landscape. We also welcomed Dr Jessica Fernández de Lara Harada as our new Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Contemporary History and Public Policy of Mexico. Jessica's work focuses on the comparative and global histories of Mexico and Japan, race and racism in Latin America and Asia, and decolonial approaches in history and social thought. Finally, we also welcomed Felipe Krause as our new Departmental Lecturer in Political Economy. Felipe works at the intersection between drug policy, social movements and political economy in Latin America. Welcome to you all!

As the academic year drew to a close we celebrated with students, fellows and friends at the LAC garden party in June. Another wonderful evening. A DJ this year instead of a band so no Tim on bass guitar. Next year...

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break.

David Doyle

“Antagonistic faces of civil society”: a report on the 2023 Brazilian Studies Programme Annual Conference

Everton Lira
Luiza Amelotti
Otávio Z. Catelano

In recent years, Brazil has been facing a strong division in politics and society. The last two presidential elections, in 2018 and 2022, were the clearest pictures of this process: voters across the country engaging in confrontational arguments, often leading to verbal and, sometimes, physical violence. The marks left are wounds still not healed and with long-term consequences for Brazilian democratic institutions and life in society.

This year the Brazilian Studies Programme Annual Conference subject was Antagonistic faces of civil society. It took place at St. Antony’s College with several researchers presenting important presentations on this matter. The Latin American Centre Director, Dr David Doyle, opened the conference highlighting the importance of the event to the Centre and to the exchange of knowledge among scholars with different academic backgrounds but a shared interest in Brazil.

In the morning, the opening panel had Dr Javier Pérez Sandoval (LAC) as chair, with presentations by Dr Andreza Aruska de Souza Santos, Dr Jessica Rich and Dr Alicia Cooperman.

Andreza Aruska, Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme and Lecturer at the Latin American Centre, presented her work “Grassroots Politics in Brazilian Mining Towns”. She discussed depopulation, power, and the influence of mining companies; and highlighted the challenges in negotiation and participation between these companies and the community, given the inequality and the strong political force attributed to the companies. Interestingly, no clear connection was found between mining towns and electoral outcomes - different to agribusiness and oil towns, where regional dynamics play a more significant role. These discussions raised important questions about protecting democracy in small villages with limited populations, presenting unique challenges for ensuring democratic processes and representation. Andreza also presented a preview of the documentary “Miguel Burnier”, named after the municipality in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais that suffered the impact of a mining company, chosen as one of her case studies. The director of the documentary, João Dumans, was also present for the showing.

Following this presentation, Jessica Rich (Marrquette University) presented her work “The Sources of Bureaucratic Resilience Against Executive Attack.” She discussed the success of the Brazilian COVID-19 vaccination programme compared to that of the UK and the USA as a case to examine how bureaucracy can withstand attacks. She analysed an original database of more than 2,000 newspaper articles as well as government reports, interviews, public opinion data, and official data on vaccinations. Jessica showed the need for diverse forms of support beyond political advocacy and discussed how economic funding by corporations may have played the role of a key mechanism of support. Her broader contributions were the discussion of a variety of roles civil society plays in defending agencies under attack; and the rise of questions about how agencies can cultivate economic support coalitions.

The third speaker, Alicia Cooperman (George Washington University), presented her work “Neighborhood Mobilization in Northeast Brazil”, focusing on the engagement in bloc voting by studying the case of Canindé,

a municipality in the Brazilian state of Ceará. She discussed community engagement and its impact on political influence and access to public service, highlighting the role of community associations as intermediaries for voicing concerns and accessing government programmes. Alicia examined grassroots mobilisation in opposition to top-down coercion dynamics, typically associated with bloc voting, and enhanced a great discussion on the relationships between accountability and public good provision; civil society and democracy; and environmental issues increasingly shaping political relations.

During the afternoon, Dr Francesca Lessa (LAC) chaired the second panel, with presentations made by Dr Flávio Eiró, Dr Rosana Pinheiro Machado and Dr Nicholas Pope.

In the presentation “Identity Politics and Electoral Competition in Pernambuco (2018-2022)”, Flávio Eiró (University of Groningen) explored the use and concepts of identities in electoral campaigns. Using ethnographic research with politicians that ran in the 2018, 2020, and 2022 elections and interviews with a gay cis man affiliated to the Worker’s Party, a young black lesbian daughter of an MST-PE leader and an evangelical Mayor, Flávio showed the tension between instrumentalization of identities and party commitments. The presentation also discussed the representational effect of identities within the context of a broader “culturalisation of politics” process, bringing the limits of representative democracy to debate with instrumentalisation, and populism.

Subsequently, “The Nexus between Labour Precarity and Authoritarian Subjectivity in Brazil” was presented by Rosana Pinheiro-Machado (University College Dublin), who examined the relationship between the informal economy, platform labour, and authoritarian politics in Brazil. The presentation discussed how combined factors - such as crises, feelings of entitlement, gender, media and aspirations for success - contribute to radicalisation among marginalized groups. She also highlighted the role of Uber influencers and the transformation of the informal economy through digital competition and technological infrastructure. Within this



Master’s students from the LAC with Dr. Andreza Aruska at the end of the BSP Conference

context, the presentation shed light on the complex dynamics between labour precarity, authoritarian subjectivity, and the digital economy in Brazil.

In the last presentation, “Pushing Back on Milícia Violence with Food: Rethinking Public Security Approaches”, Nicholas Pope (King’s College London) discussed marginalised communities’ alternative strategies to address violence and insecurity. Bringing the concept of “quilombagem”, Nicholas showed how solidarity and collectivist thinking have eroded the paramilitary power and the violent capitalist structure within these places. He argued how the consciousness, education, and politicisation long-term processes are changing how people may transform structures that lead to violence,

avoiding coercive and authoritarian spaces.

The 2023 Annual Conference was Dr Andreza Aruska’s last one as Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme and Lecturer at the Latin American Centre. While we are sad to have her leave the LAC, we look forward to staying in touch with her in her new role as the Director of the Brazil Institute at King’s College London. During her keynote speech, she mentioned the importance of both BSP and the LAC. Over the past four years, she led, taught, and provided an academically rigorous environment for many people at the Latin American Centre to develop high-quality research about Brazil and its role in the world.



LAC Director David Doyle provides opening remarks



Dr. Francesca Lessa (left) moderating a panel during the annual BSP Conference

Former President of Colombia Iván Duque visits the LAC

On 25 January, former Colombian President Iván Duque (2018-2022) met with LAC students and faculty for a private meeting. During this informal conversation, he discussed the current state of affairs in Latin America. President Duque, currently a Leadership Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government, spoke about three broad themes, including socio-economic issues, political crises and democratic perspectives, and international challenges.



LAC students with former Colombian President Iván Duque



The 2nd Oxford-Berlin Latin American Graduate Conference

By Sarah Phillips (MPhil Latin American Studies) and Juan I. Neves-Sarriegui (DPhil Candidate History)

On 26 and 27 June 2023, graduate students from the University of Oxford and the Free University of Berlin (FU) gathered in Berlin for the second annual Latin American Graduate Conference. The seven Oxford attendees included doctoral students in history (Juan I. Neves-Sarriegui and Benjamin Rymer) and modern languages (Georgina Fooks, José Parra Zeltzer and Anneli Aliaga), as well as Sarah Phillips representing the LAC. Introductory remarks, provided by the Director of the Institute for Latin American Studies (LAI) History Professor Stefan Rinke and our own Eduardo Posada-Carbó, set the stage for what would prove to be two productive days of interdisciplinary dialogue. The two emphasised the importance of student mobility and exchange and highlighted the achievements of Oxford and Berlin students who for two consecutive years have organised this international conference.

The event, generously sponsored by the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership, the LAI-FU, the Berlin University Alliance, and Oxford's Latin American Centre, was designed to bring together master's and doctoral students in any subject who share an interest in Latin America. Each participant presented an original piece of research, with topics ranging from digital

literacy in Medellín's online banking sector to marginalized communities in contemporary Chilean cinema. The broad range of disciplines made for interesting and insightful comments from both presenters and members of the audience. Overall, the conference provided a welcoming environment for early career researchers to discuss their research findings. We left Berlin with the confidence of a consolidated Oxford-Berlin Graduate Network that will continue working together for years to come. We look forward to further collaboration in the near future, including welcoming students of the LAI to Oxford next year.



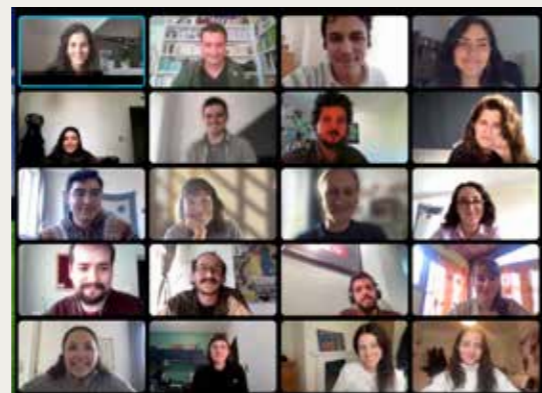
Benjamin Rymer (DPhil Candidate, History) presents his research at the Conference



María José Gordillo (master's student, LAI-FU) and Anneli Aliaga (DPhil candidate, Oxford) presenting in the panel 'New Research Methods for New Epistemologies?: Graduate Students' Conversation on North-South Epistemic Tensions, Positionality, and Activist Research'.

2nd Oxford-Berlin Latin American Graduate Online Workshop

On 8th May 2023 twenty-one students from the LAC and the LAI (Institute for Latin American Studies of the Free University of Berlin) met online to participate in three interdisciplinary roundtables to discuss their research. It was a great opportunity for master's and doctoral students to meet and exchange ideas and experiences with their peers. Participants came from a variety of disciplines including history, gender studies, literature, cultural studies, and the social sciences. Conversations allowed us to share the challenges and experiences of our research on Latin American societies and topics.



Oxford and Berlin Graduate Students in Latin American Studies. Group photo of the 2nd Oxford-Berlin Latin American Graduate Conference, 26 and 27 June 2023. With the support of the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership, the Oxford LAC, the LAI-FU, and the Berlin University Alliance.



Students outside the LAC with alumna Georgia Hill

Where can a degree in Latin American Studies take you? When and how should I start looking for a job? What opportunities exist in the UK, Latin America, Europe, the US, and beyond...? These are some of the common questions that our students ask themselves upon their graduation. This year, the LAC has organised a programme of Careers Events, with support from our alumni community, to help our students to excel in the working world.

On January 31st, LAC alumna Georgia Hill spoke with students about her career trajectory since completing her MPhil at Oxford in 2013. As a current Programme Specialist in Capacity Building at UNICEF, she emphasized the importance of telling your story through a cover letter and CV. Georgia also highlighted the value of maintaining relationships following graduation. By leaning on her almost 10 years of experience working in international development, she offered valuable advice for students interested in the UN or other multilateral organisations.

To conclude the academic year, on 23rd June, the LAC organised a Careers Day at St Antony's College to help students to contemplate their next steps. Moderated by current MPhil student, Sarah Phillips, the hybrid event brought together alumni based in Brazil, Colombia, the Netherlands, and the UK. Robert Malengreau dialled in from Rio de Janeiro to tell us how he turned his MPhil thesis into UMRio (ONERio): a

charity which uses sport as a vehicle for social integration in the favelas. Jan Minke Contreras- currently a diplomatic liaison at the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM)- shared his insights on working in diplomacy and international organisations. Speaking from Bogotá, Juanita Ardila Hidalgo explained how the historical and regional knowledge she gained during her MSc informs her current work as a Gender and Diversity Consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Robin Pearson, Senior Associate at due-diligence firm, Wallbrook, and Clorrie Yeomans, Corporate Affairs Assistant at Canning House, joined us in person to discuss opportunities for working with Latin America in London. Robin highlighted how he exercises the research and writing skills he gained during his degree in order to produce due diligence reports at work. Clorrie pinpointed some key sectors of demand for working with Latin America in London, drawing on her experience at Canning House: the leading forum for connecting the UK and Latin America. The moderator, Sarah Phillips, also wove in some helpful interview tips, reflecting on her experiences working at US think tank, the Inter-American Dialogue. Together, Sarah, Robin, and Clorrie emphasised the value of language skills for their everyday professional lives.

Sarah opened up the discussion to questions from current MSc and MPhil students. Key themes that emerged included pitching your LAC degree in Latin America, showcasing yourself in a positive light online, and how artificial intelligence is transforming how graduates use their academic skills. To conclude the event, Professor Leigh Payne delivered some closing remarks and encouraged the alumni community to stay connected.



LAC alumni Robert Malengreau, Jan Minke Contreras, and Juanita Ardila Hidalgo joined students virtually for the LAC Careers Day



Robin Pearson, Senior Associate at due-diligence firm, Wallbrook, and Clorrie Yeomans, Corporate Affairs Assistant at Canning House, joined us in person to discuss London-based opportunities for working with Latin America.

The LAC seminars by a “chronicler” who is not a chronicler

By Andrés Rugeles
LAC Academic Visitor 2023

After the presentation of the “Trust” report by Carlos Scartascini, Head of Research at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), at the Latin America Centre (LAC) in Oxford, I had -as we usually do- a conversation with Eduardo Posada-Carbó about the seminar and its conclusions.

That hot and humid May afternoon, more than one person was perplexed by the report’s findings and especially about how to translate them into concrete public policy actions to raise levels of trust and social cohesion. Many of the questions pointed in that direction. The challenge was what to do with an overwhelming diagnosis: only 1 in 10 Latin Americans trusts others.

At the end of my conversation with Eduardo, the initiative arose to set down some of these ideas in Horizontes. He asked me to become a “chronicler” of LAC’s non-historical seminars. This was quite a vote of confidence, as well as being in the true spirit of the title of the IDB report.

What a task and responsibility, I thought at the time. But there were other considerations: it could not be an academic exercise and it was limited to a maximum of 800 words. It had to be a text that expressed my personal experience. I am not a historian, journalist, or chronicler. But I had participated in all the seminars of the first semester of 2023 at the LAC, and had done so with enormous intellectual curiosity, rigor, and conviction. The motivation to write this chronicle was set in motion.

I did so with the certainty that it was necessary to highlight the value of the seminars, and that in the world of ideas and words I would be able to defend myself with some ease. For several days I thought about the best way to approach the writing. I remembered -in case of doubt- the best source is always to refer to the oracle, the dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE), although nowadays many prefer to type a couple of key words into Google to do their search and, tomorrow, they will probably do it through ChatGPT.

What did the oracle tell us about the work of a chronicler? “A person in a municipality whose mission is to collect, document, preserve and defend the traditions, customs and social habits of his or her community”. That person was in the municipality of Oxford, and

had the mission of documenting the seminars and defending their traditions and habits. I thought to myself: “Are they referring to the defense of our traditional glass of wine at the end of the seminar, or to the fantastic hamburgers and beer every Thursday?”

Given the task at hand and the limitations of space, I decided that this text would be a chronicle by a non-chronist. It would be an eyewitness account.

I took on the task of reviewing notes from each of the seminars, their chronology in time, their speakers, and even preparing some statistics. Beyond that, we can be satisfied that in the first semester of 2023 we had a broad overview of the region, ranging from colonialism in Puerto Rico and its economic and political consequences, to Haiti and its migration; Mexican politics and the PRI; peace in Colombia; the economic and social panorama; political participation in Peru; Latin American visions of Europe; legal strategies for the empowerment of indigenous peoples; support for sub-national governments for environmental protection; the foundations of the new political parties; religion, social welfare, and inequality; Brazil’s foreign policy; among others.

To give an account of each session would be an interminable task and above all very tedious for the reader. I would certainly be stripped of the honorable title of “chronicler”. However, we can affirm that the variety of topics addressed is surprising, as well as the level and trajectory of each of the speakers and the intellectual richness of each topic. This deserves recognition.

It is difficult to find a common thread in each of the themes and talks. Perhaps the common point is the heterogeneity and complexity of the region. This is precisely one of the characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean. It must be studied from different times, angles, and disciplines. From universality in the Aristotelian sense of the word.

My invitation is that you -experts and non-experts of Latin America- become your own chroniclers of the Centre’s seminars. It is a privilege to attend its sessions regularly each week. There you will find a richness and diversity -like few others- that will open up new horizons for your studies and research.



10th anniversary of the History Seminar

Our Latin American History seminar celebrated its 10th anniversary. We continued to meet weekly throughout the academic year on Thursdays, followed by our informal dinner which this year took place at the Anchor – a very enjoyable occasion when colleagues, students and members of the public join our guest-speakers.

The Rise of the Right-Against-Rights and Global (Dis)Order in Latin America and Beyond

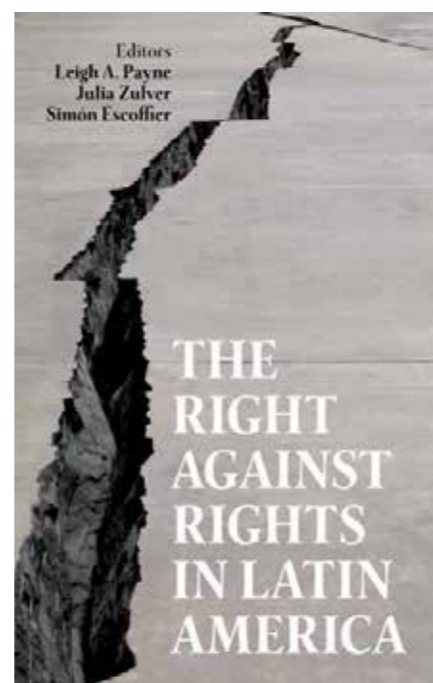
Professor Leigh Payne is the principal investigator of a 2023-2025 British Academy project on The Rise of the Right-Against-Rights and Global (Dis) Order in Latin America and Beyond. The project unites partners in Argentina (Gabriel Pereira, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán), Brazil (Bruno Boti Bernardi, Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados; Janaina de Almeida Teles, Universidade do Estado de Minas Gerais), and Colombia (Sandra Botero, Universidad del Rosario). It also includes as project associates former students Drs Nancy Tapias Torrado and Julia Zulver and as research assistants Sarah Phillips and Kiran Stallone. The project is described on the BA website, copied here:

A new global social order emerged with the millennium: an expansion of rights to those excluded historically, culturally, socially, economically, and politically. Women, BIPOC groups, LGBT+ communities, immigrants, the economically-disadvantaged, environmentally vulnerable populations, and victim-survivors of human rights

violations won rights on the books, if not always in practice. Yet this veritable rights revolution unleashed a right-wing backlash to roll back rights, undermining the new social order, and replacing it with polarized and often violent conflict around the world. To explore who is behind the disorder provoked by the right-against-rights, where and why, and with what impact, this project crosses disciplinary (social sciences-humanities) and geographic (global north-global south) knowledge frontiers. It overcomes narrow political-institutional and global north approaches.

By combining history, law, sociology, gender, and area studies, it broadens knowledge of, and develops strategies to reduce, the right-against-rights' threat of disorder on fragile democracies in Latin America and beyond.

The project builds on the book co-edited by Professor Payne, Dr Simón Escoffier, and Dr Julia Zulver on *The Right against Rights in Latin America* (Oxford University Press, 2023).



Freddy Nevison-Andrews, Press and Communications Manager, Canning House

The *Conversa*, Canning House's annual forum for discussion of the most important issues facing the UK, Brazil and the two countries' relationship, took place at the Blavatnik School of Government at the end of June. Across six panels, participants, including several academics from the University of Oxford, shared bilateral perspectives on geopolitics, infrastructure, climate change, health, economics, education and more. Professor David Doyle, Director of the LAC, delivered opening remarks alongside Jeremy Browne, Canning House's CEO, and Professor Ngaire Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik. They were followed by Sir Alok Sharma, President of COP26 and MP for Reading West, who delivered a keynote speech addressing global approaches to climate change, and how the UK and Brazil can work together to build a more prosperous, green future.



The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America

Dr Francesca Lessa's second monograph, *The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America* (Yale University Press, 2022), has been very successful.

The book was the winner of the 2023 Juan E. Méndez Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America by Duke University and also received an honorable mention by the 2023 Bryce Wood Book Award of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Further, the book featured at number 3 on the International Affairs list of the top 10 books of 2022.

The book has subsequently been released in Spanish in October 2022 by Penguin Random House Uruguay/Taurus as *Los juicios del Cóndor: La coordinación represiva y los crímenes de lesa humanidad en América del Sur* and in Italian in February 2023 by qudu libri/24 marzo Onlus as *I processi Condor: La repressione transnazionale e i diritti umani in America del Sud*. A French version, to be released by Editions Syllepse, will be published in 2024.

Dr Lessa has presented the book in several locations, including in Chile, Argentina, the US, Canada, the UK, and Italy, with forthcoming presentations in France and Germany during the summer

of 2023. Most recently, on June 8, 2023, the book was launched at the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador in London. The event, attended by approximately 100 people, was organized by the Embassy of Argentina in the UK, in partnership with the University of Oxford and with support from Canning House. His Excellency Mr. Javier Figueroa, Ambassador of Argentina in the UK, and Mr. Jeremy Browne, CEO of Canning House, provided the opening remarks. Subsequently, Dr Lessa presented her book, followed by comments from the discussants, Professor Leigh Payne and Dr Pilar Elizalde, both of the University of Oxford. The event ended with a wine and empanadas reception.



The Life of an Antonian: An Antonian for life

Sarah Phillips

At Oxford, the college system is a unique and vital part of student life. In line with the structure of a federal system, each of Oxford's 44 colleges (including five permanent private halls) possess a degree of autonomy and self-governance. While all the colleges are designed to offer a more intimate, close-knit community within the bounds of the larger university, they differ in character, traditions, and age.

St Antony's—the college I have called home for the last two years—is one of 19 colleges that accepts students from the LAC. It has a reputation as the most international college thanks to its diverse students and staff. The college proudly boasts seven research centres focused on Africa, Asia, Europe, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, Russia and Eurasia. The emphasis on regional studies at the college means finding like-minded individuals who appreciate interdisciplinary dialogue is never difficult. It also means that the campus has an unrivalled cultural vibrancy, featuring social events that range from Japanese Sake tasting to Indian cinema nights.

St Antony's parties, or 'BOPs' as the students lovingly call them, are a personal highlight of my time as an Antonian. Now, I'm not one to brag, but St Antony's throws the best BOPs in Oxford. Am I biased? Of course not. In October, we held our annual HalloQueen event, a Halloween BOP that features drag performances and allows members of our community a safe space for self-expression, creativity, and experimentation. BOPs are a particularly special event because they are an opportunity to meet students from other colleges. They are also a welcome way to de-stress during the busy Oxford terms.

Other social highlights include formal dinners, where college members are invited to participate in a three-course meal alongside their peers. Some of my best evenings were spent conversing over good food and wine in the college's famous Hilda Besse building. This year, I also had the pleasure of attending my first high table at St Antony's. High table is generally reserved for fellows, or members of the Senior Common Room. I was invited by LAC Professor Leigh Payne, along with LAC alumni Clorrie Yeomans and Tomás Medina Mora, to celebrate the submission

of our theses. It was, unsurprisingly, an evening full of excellent food and even better company.

As someone who conducts research on climate change, I would be remiss not to mention the college's reputation for sustainability leadership. In June 2023, St Antony's won Oxford's Gold Green Impact Award. The college's impressive initiatives are a testament to our community's desire to respect and care for our planet. New measures taken this year include (but are not limited to) promoting vegan and vegetarianism in the dining hall and reducing energy consumption around campus.

A postgraduate-only community of 450 students, St Antony's has been a formative part of my experience at Oxford. During this academic year, I lived with three fellow Antonians, two of whom were also named some variation of 'Sarah'. At one point in the year, members of the college began referring to us by our nationalities—American Sarah, Italian Sara, and Turkish Serra—to differentiate. While anecdotal, I think this reflects a wider trend at St Antony's. To be an Antonian can mean many things, but it often involves an acknowledgment of the

different, diverse backgrounds represented in our community. Yet, simultaneously, in recognizing these differences, the similarities that bind and bring us together come to the surface. We Antonians are connected by a thread—the desire to use interdisciplinary area studies scholarship to ground complex issues within the particulars of language, culture, and history. As an international community, we have created a home-away-from-home, nestled in North Oxford. While I might be physically leaving our campus in the Fall, I have no doubt that I'll continue to find Antonians around the world.



LAC MPhil student Sarah Phillips eating dinner with her fellow Antonian housemates Sara, Serra, and Silvia.



LAC students enjoying St Antony's Summer Party

Life at Wadham College

Amunet Boafa

Like most things in life, my experience at Wadham has been an amalgamation of highs, lows and everything in between. Same as many others who made an open application, I didn't choose my college, but instead fell into it - originally allocated a spot at St. Antony's, I only found myself at Wadham after receiving a scholarship. Initially, as a student of the LAC, I felt like I would be missing out by being at Wadham; whilst St. Antony's is known as Oxford's Humanities and Social Science Mecca, Wadham's postgraduate community is interdisciplinary and highly interdisciplinary (there were only seven postgraduate students from the Global and Area Studies department in total this year). Whilst this made for many interesting conversations with people I would have otherwise been unlikely to cross paths with, it could also be isolating, particularly at the start. Moreover, compared to St. Anthony's close-knit postgraduate-only community, the displacement of Wadham's postgraduates to the northern reaches of Summertown and the southern expanses of Iffley Road made for a rather incohesive student body with a strong collegiate focus on undergraduates.

Nevertheless, my time at Wadham was filled with rich experiences that I may not have been able to have elsewhere. Known for being one of Oxford's most liberal colleges, life as a Wadhamite is simultaneously one of celebrating tradition and championing progress - hidden behind the beautiful 17th-century Gothic-style quad is a modern MCR building, traditional high table dinners are set against the absence of traditional Latin prayer, whilst the chaplain's Sunday evensongs are, for most people, at complete odds with her Wednesday Qigong sessions. It is these juxtapositions that make for an environment that allows a lot of flexibility towards change - something that my fellow LAC Wadhamite and I took advantage of as Wadham MCR's Women's Officers.

The highlight, for me, of Wadham College, however, has been getting to try so many new foods and wines. After nine months of drinking wine from Wadham's cellars, I feel that I can confidently say

that Wadham has some of the best (if not the best!) wine of all the Oxford colleges. As someone who previously had little experience with wine tastings and formal dinners, being able to enjoy formal halls in such a historic building has been an experience I will never forget. Moreover, the two free termly high tables for postgraduate students have been a way to interact with other postgraduates and college fellows whilst getting to taste some of the college's best food and wines. However, whilst Wadham has been the backdrop to many wonderful social and culinary experiences, visiting other colleges and discovering their unique characteristics has been, by far, one of the best things about the Oxford college system for me; I found that Linacre's student bar, for example, is one of the most welcoming of all the Oxford colleges (also, it's open every day which is a bonus!), whilst Lincoln arguably has one of the most beautiful college libraries in all of Oxford.

Whilst we are all students at the same university, our colleges undoubtedly have the power to define our university experience - after all, it is our colleges that help us with things such as hardship funds, exam help and (for most) accommodation. However, your university experience does not need to be confined by the limits of college walls. Taking part in societies and club sports has been a great way to experience

things outside of college life and meet people I may otherwise not have had the chance to meet, whilst getting to know the people within the LAC has made the LAC a home away from home. In short, whichever college you choose (or fall into), you will always have the chance to meet amazing people and experience things you wouldn't have the chance to outside of Oxford, so enjoy it!

Amunet Boafa



Wadham College Dining Hall



Wadham College's Welcome Formal

South America Bound: A Scholar's Experience at an Academic Symposium in São Paulo

Robert Youngs do Patrocinio



Robert Youngs Do Patrocinio

I have just completed a postgraduate programme at the University of Oxford's Latin American Centre. As a part of my MSc degree in Latin American Studies this year I took papers in History, Politics and Economics with a particular focus on Brazil. Therefore, I was thrilled to be awarded a FAPESP scholarship to travel to São Paulo to participate in a symposium event. My academic role was to contribute to The São Paulo School of Advanced Science on the Bicentennial of the Brazilian Independence (SPSAS-BI), and to be a representative of the University of Oxford's Latin American Centre. As one of 85 selected scholars, this was a valuable opportunity for me to work with experts from around the world, as international candidates had travelled from Russia, China, India, Indonesia, Italy, Portugal, Nigeria, Colombia, Cuba and Argentina.

The 10-day symposium focused on the following areas: Track 1: National Perspective and Clashing ideas (5 days), which looked at the Struggles for power in the independence of Brazil -

interpretations of Brazil's independence; Memories of independence - celebratory practices and symbolic disputes; Indigenous peoples and the independence of Brazil; The role of the enslaved in independence processes; The kidnapping of independence - a history of the construction of the *Sete de Setembro* myth. Track 2: International Dimensions and Perspectives (5 days), which focused on Brazil's independence from an international relations perspective; The process of recognising independence from Brazil's optics; Brazil's independence from the global south: diplomacy and history; The process of recognising independence

The overall goal of the conference was to establish new spaces for dialogues and conversation. An example of this was our work considering "other Brazilian independences" in contrast to the "national" master narrative which has been increasingly criticised for overlooking important historic accounts. As a result, this important juncture in Brazilian history is often greatly misrepresented as a consequence of ongoing socio-political power dynamics and relations, thus causing the establishment of master narratives. This was explored by confronting various myths of independence, particularly the fact that there is one universal Brazilian history, centred on one man Dom Pedro II, and one event which brought about the birth of the republic. Subsequently, this has resulted in obscuring the roles of overlooked groups, such as the Afro-Brazilian slaves and Indigenous peoples. Also, we especially focused on examining the acceptance of independence across different demographics, particularly Indigenous peoples and their experiences of cultural and national citizenship. This was presided over by the celebrated Brazilian Historian, Ynaê Lopes dos Santos. I found this to

be interesting when reflecting on how groups interpret and construct national-social collective memory of historical events, and in the case of independence in Brazil, the process of nation building following its transition to a republic.

On a personal note, one of the highlights of my experience was being based at the Ipiranga Museum, which is the site where Brazilian independence was officially declared in 1822, and therefore is an exciting place to discuss this event in such a historic national location. The state-of-the-art facilities have recently been renovated in order to restore the Ipiranga Museum and bring it back to its former grandeur in tune with its historic architecture. Indeed, this opportunity was a wonderful chance to explore the museum's fantastic archives, exhibitions and collections. I really enjoyed viewing Pedro Américo's painting titled "Independence of Death" in person. Also, it was exciting to work at the University of São Paulo, which is Brazil's largest and most prestigious educational institution, where I was fortunate to meet with leading Brazilian scholars, particularly: Daniel Munduruku, Rubens Ricupero and Gustavo Alonso.

We care about (an intersectional) equality.

Isabela Miranda Gomes

As Women's officers at Wadham College, we have worked to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment, with a particular focus on women of colour. Our main aim was to ensure that women of colour felt valued and included by organising dedicated events for them. We are proud to say that these events attracted individuals who had previously felt excluded from other MCR gatherings. Witnessing their newfound sense of belonging and empowerment was truly inspiring.

In addition, we had the privilege of hosting Shaista Aziz, who shared her invaluable experiences and insights on activism and inclusion. Her presence encouraged us to continue our efforts towards a more equitable and inclusive future.

We attended the Equality Committee meeting, we raised concerns about overall inclusivity at the college and suggested hosting a People of Colour formal dinner next year. This event would provide a space for celebration, connection, and dialogue among individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, we voiced our deep concerns about the prevalence of sexual

violence at the University of Oxford and its potential impact on survivors' academic experience, particularly recognising that women are disproportionately affected. We engaged in a meaningful discussion on how Wadham College can play a pivotal role in both preventing such incidents and providing comprehensive support to survivors. Addressing this issue is

essential to creating a safe and supportive environment for all community members.

We believe in turning inclusivity and equality into concrete actions. Together, we are building a stronger, more diverse, and compassionate community where everyone feels valued and empowered.



Attendees of an event held by Wadham MCR Women's Officers with guest speaker and local politician and activist Shaista Aziz

Trust Report

On May 22, Carlos Scartascini, head of the Development Research Group at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), presented the report "Trust".

In this document the IADB states that trust is the most pressing and yet least discussed problem confronting Latin America and the Caribbean. Whether in governments, in firms, or in each other, trust is lower in the region than anywhere else in the world. The economic and political consequences of mistrust ripple through society.



Andres Rugeles, Eduardo Posada-Carbo, Leticia Ruiz, John Crabtree, Carlos Scartascini, David Doyle

Mother's Day in Veracruz, Mexico

Dr Julia Zulver,
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow, UNAM and Oxford



By the time I reach the meeting point, it's already 32 degrees. It's only 8.30 in the morning. I see a few women sitting in the shade of a building that houses a historical streetcar, wearing their trademark yellow handkerchiefs around their necks. Over the next hour, more and more women trickle into the plaza. They greet each other fondly, with firm hugs and big smiles. Some are visibly distressed, but the others embrace them: "today is a day to be strong for your daughter, *amiga*." They wear shirts with the faces of young men and women – smiling, taking selfies, looking tough for the camera. These children are the reason they're attending the protest today: they have all been *disappeared* in Mexico's port city of Veracruz.

Suddenly, Gloria and Rita* arrive in a flurry of activity. Gloria gives interviews to the local press, cameras and voice recorders shoved in her face. Rita gets the women organized; she helps them unfurl the banners they're carrying and instructs them to line up on the street.

One woman hauls over a yellow portable speaker and plugs in a microphone, which she hands to Gloria, who is now finished with her interviews.

The women take to the street. With her finger in the air, Gloria yells into the microphone: "*Con todo compañeras, con todo. Todo por nuestros hijos, todo por nuestros amores.*"

And with that, we take off walking. The local traffic police have shut down the streets, as we wind our way past beautiful colonial buildings towards the palm-lined *malecón*. The morning is getting hotter, and the women walk slowly, particularly those who are elderly or suffer from physical ailments. They chant together: "From north to south, from east to west, I will search for you, whatever it costs!" They carry framed photographs, banners, and posters with their children's photographs and personal details. *Height: 180cm. Eyes: brown. Identifying signs: a scar over his right eyebrow. Help us find him.*

As we pass by *La Parroquia*, an iconic local coffee house, Gloria stops. She turns to the diners, enjoying their breakfast, and addresses them directly. Her voice is hoarse from leading the chants. "We are living the worst tragedy of our lives. We need all of you to be empathetic and for all of you to show us your solidarity. Mexico belongs to all of us, and the disappeared belong to all of us too."

It's Mother's Day in Veracruz, Mexico, and I am marching with the *madres buscadoras*, the searching mothers. Over the past months, I have been interviewing leaders and members of a *colectivo* of mothers, and today I am observing one of their annual marches through the city centre. Abandoned, dismissed by, and discriminated against by local government, the women make their struggle public, demanding *justicia* and *verdad* about the fate of their missing loved ones.

It was on exactly this day a few years ago that the mothers received an anonymous map as they marched; it was handed from person to person until it made it to Gloria and Rita. When they investigated, they found that it identified the location of clandestine graves in Colinas de Santa Fe, in Veracruz. They decided to learn how to excavate graves, and have since found bones belonging to hundreds of bodies. Some of these remains belong to their children.

Marching in this protest – and belonging to this *colectivo* – does not come without risks for the mothers who are participating. Gloria and Rita have received direct threats from state officials and narco leaders. They have been told to stop their search, to stop "kicking up dust", or they will suffer the consequences. Many of the women

have been abandoned by their families as they dedicate themselves to searching for their children. They live in ongoing fear of the criminal organizations that control the neighbourhoods where they live.

Over the next two years of my Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship, I will continue to spend time with this *colectivo*. I am particularly interested in understanding more about Gloria and Rita, the high-risk charismatic leaders who encourage grieving mothers to go out and demand justice for their children, despite the risks associated with doing so.

* *The names used in this research note have been changed to protect the women's identities, in accordance with my approved CUREC2 protocol. Their activism makes them targets for ongoing threats and violence.*



A Library Year

The first full post-pandemic year at the LAC Library was an exciting one. It's been great to work without social distancing and masks for a whole year, uninterrupted. We have also loved seeing students using the reading rooms again – and borrowing hard-copy books! We have welcomed readers from other departments, who enjoy studying at the library.

In the autumn we became a delivery point for the Bodleian van, which may not sound of itself particularly radical, but it has meant that our readers can now order books from the Collections Storage Facility at Swindon (CSF) direct to LAC. Orders placed on SOLO for 'Closed Stack' items before 10 a.m. will, in almost all cases, be at the library the same afternoon. As the Bodleian publicity puts it, this means that some 8 million items are available for request (though hopefully not all at once). Most importantly, the CSF collection includes over 100,000 items in Latin American Studies.

Also in the autumn, members of the library committee, which is chaired by Eduardo and meets termly to discuss library management, made a special visit to Regent's Park College at the invitation of the librarian, who represented the college libraries on the committee. When Eduardo first became chair, he introduced the idea of some meetings being held at other libraries with Latin American Studies collections. The visit this time was the first we had done since the pandemic and as well as discussing library business, we were shown the David Nicholls Memorial Collection, which is made up of over 4,000 books, pamphlets, dissertations, working papers and rare journals relating to Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean territories. This was a

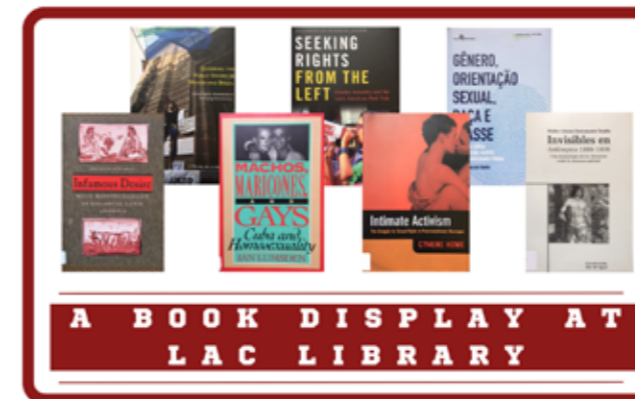
fascinating glimpse of one of the many Latin American Studies collections that are tucked away in Bodleian Libraries, the colleges and other institutions. The autumn was also the time of the second flood in the library's basement Stacks. I was extremely grateful to Rebeca and to the students who helped her to rescue material that had been damaged by the water – which, as in 2021 – resulted from a leak in the heating system. Water damage is one of the big threats to library collections, taking a long time to dry out and posing the risk of mould development, which is time consuming and expensive to remedy. It was a depressing experience to drive into Oxford in-between Christmas and the New Year to empty the dehumidifier in the damp, chilly Stacks. Still the spring came eventually and the Stacks are once again open to readers. We were very lucky that mould didn't form and we are so grateful to Bodleian Conservation and Harwell

Restoration for supporting us. I am also pleased to say that the college has replaced the hot water heating system in the Stacks with an electrical one so the problem doesn't arise again.

In the late winter and in the spring, Rebeca and Sam organised two book displays in the Main Library. The first was for LGBT+ History Month and the second focused on books from our collection on the Dominican Republic, which was created for a visit of the republic's ambassador to London. The posters that accompanied the exhibitions, which were designed by Sam, are published alongside this article.

I was also lucky enough to be asked to select books for a Bodleian show and tell exhibition for the visitors from the Dominican Republic later in the day. Amongst the items I chose were the *Constitución Política De La República Dominicana* of December

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH



1854, a fascinating pamphlet describing a hurricane that struck the island – *Relacion Verdadera, En Que Se Da Quenta Del Horrible Huracán Que Sobrevino à La Isla ... De Santo Domingo ... 1680* – and a book published in Cuba in 1853, *Historia De Santo Domingo, Desde Su Descubrimiento Hasta Nuestros Días*, which included an account of Thursday 6 December 1492, when Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola. Just a few of the books in Latin American Studies held by Bodleian Special Collections. It was great that the ambassador gave the Bodleian a presentation copy of the Dominican Republic's latest constitution.

And now another academic year has passed and we at the library will be preparing for the launch of the new Library Management System – the software that controls everything from lending books to ordering them from publishers, which is due to go live on Thursday 24 August. You can read about the slightly reduced services over the first part of the summer that result from the switch-over, together with information about the new lending policy that will be introduced with go-live on the Bodleian Libraries home page: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/home>.

Which only leaves the librarians to say, have a very enjoyable summer!



LAC students Amalia and Ally visiting Leonie in Berlin

MSc Students 2022-2023



Amunet Boafu

With an academic background in Spanish and Japanese from the University of Manchester, my interest in Latin America was motivated by my experiences as an undergraduate. Influenced first by a module on Colonial Spanish American history, I chose to spend five months working in Bogotá where I found an interest not only in Latin America but in Colombia more specifically. Now, my research focuses particularly on the Afro-descendent experience with a focus on Colombia



Nina Butslova

I was born in Moscow, Russia and moved to the UK at the age of 11. I completed my BA at the University of Edinburgh in Spanish and History, focusing on LGBTQ+ issues within Cuban film. During my MSc in Oxford, I centred my research around Chile, writing a dissertation on state violence against gender and sexual minorities throughout the 2019 social protests. I hope to pursue a career in international development with a focus on Latin American human rights.



José Ignacio Cabrejos Portocarrero

I was born in Lima (Peru), and studied Business Administration at Universidad del Pacífico (UP), where I finished within the top 10% of my class. Before coming to Oxford I co-founded a startup called "Doctoc Health" which aims to modernise health records in Peru and Latin America. Nevertheless, I also wanted to have a deeper understanding of my region. This aim took me to Oxford. During my time at the LAC, my research has focused on the viability of the neoliberal economic system in Peru.



Isabela Miranda Gomes

As a postgraduate scholar at Wadham College, my passion is centred on advocating for women's rights, diversity and inclusion. My professional journey began in Brazil, where I earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Sao Paulo. Upon relocating to Oxford, I served as an immigration advisor at Asylum Welcome, which spurred further my interest in the topic of migration. Since August 2020, my path led me to London, where I assumed the role of Service Manager for the Violence Against Women and Girls team at the Latin American Women's Rights Service. My research is predominantly focused on unravelling how structural barriers and institutional racism impact Latin American women survivors of gender-based abuse in the UK. I adopt a trauma-informed approach to scrutinise intertwined factors such as violence against women and girls, migration, gender inequality, community resilience, discrimination, and public policies.



Leonie Höher

During my time at the Latin American Centre, I wrote a dissertation entitled *La 'Amistad' Alemana-Guatemalteca: An Account of German Influences on Guatemalan Development*. This builds on my previous research as an undergraduate at the University of St Andrews, which focused on the colonial legacies informing the implementation of 'sustainable development' in Central America, specifically in Guatemala and Costa Rica. My interest lies in exploring how decoloniality can positively contribute to academic and political discourse focused on the Latin American region. In the future, I hope to work on improving EU-Latin American relations with a special emphasis on climate justice. I am from Berlin, Germany, but aim to live and work in Central America and Mexico in the coming years.



Henry Kirk

My primary connection to Latin America began during my gap year where I spent six months working at schools in Santiago, Chile. I returned to the UK to read my undergraduate in Classics, but realised I wanted to return to Latin America in the future and so should do something to better understand these countries. My focus this year has been the association between commodity exports and democracy in the region, looking at how new environmental initiatives affect this association. It has been fascinating to change up my prior studies of early democracy in 5th century Athens to looking at some of the most recent questions for democracy in the modern day (as well as the age old problems which never change).



Emma Howes

I have a background in history and law, and I came to the LAC to expand my knowledge of these subjects within a Latin American context. My studies have enabled me to explore diverse social and legal issues in a variety of Latin American countries. I have also learned about the notable contributions made by Latin Americans in the fields of legal philosophy and rights law. My research centred on the interpretation of the American Convention on Human Rights by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This research examined the particular considerations which have shaped the Court's decisions, as well as the reception of such decisions in the region and abroad.



Lucas De Carvalho

I am Brazilian, but I was born and raised in the US and have lived in the UK for six years now. My dissertation was a critical evaluation of democratic consolidation theory in the context of the challenges of democratic governance in Brazil. My year in Oxford was inspirational. I will apply for a doctorate, because I want to study issues of corruption and judicial accountability in Latin America. These challenges have long captured my attention as a Brazilian, and the resources at Oxford and the LAC have inspired me to pursue my study of them as a political scientist.



Finn Ford

I'm Finn, an MSc Latin American Studies student. I became interested in Latin America once I started to learn Spanish and decided to travel there. Academically, I came to study the region as a historian with a particular focus on revolution and organised crime. I'm very excited to continue this work in the future.

Last day at Politics of Brazil and Prof Andreza's farewell



MSc Students 2022-2023



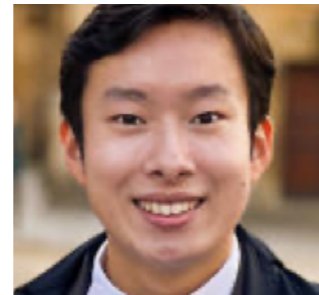
Charli McMackin

My name is Charli, and I'm an MSc Student at the Latin American Centre with a research specialisation in Mexico and its border with the United States. Having completed both an undergraduate degree at the University of Warwick in English Literature and Hispanic Studies and master's in Modern Languages at the University of Oxford, I am eager to deepen my understanding of Mexican politics, foreign policy and economics to complement my existing literary and filmic knowledge of the region.



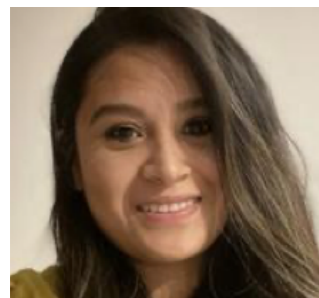
Ally Osterberg

Ally is a postgraduate student at St. Antony's College, Oxford University. Born and raised in North Carolina, USA, she holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies and Leadership Studies from the University of Richmond in Virginia. During her undergraduate studies, Ally focused on the Guatemalan Civil War and the human rights violations that occurred against Indigenous women. At Oxford, she studied the connections between human rights violations in Latin America and food insecurity.



Yuqiao Song

I am a postgraduate student at St. Antony's College reading for MSc Latin American Studies. I hold a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from The University of Manchester. Born in Beijing, China, I lived in Brazil for seven years, which fostered my interest in this fascinating region. During my undergraduate studies, I had ample opportunities to explore different aspects of Latin America through coursework and research internships, culminating in a thesis focusing on empirically analysing the effects of Brazilian welfare policies on inequalities during the pandemic. I am particularly interested in the economics of Latin America.



Karen Tome Sanchez

I was born in a beautiful city called Tijuana, located in northern Mexico, a border city with the United States. Growing up in one of the most crossed borders globally, I was used to seeing people trying to cross the border through the desert and seeing the despair and disappointment when they failed. However, I never got to think about their suffering and fear when entering the country until I immigrated to the U.S. Since then, I've developed a passion for research based on human rights and inequality.



Rob Youngs Do Patrocinio

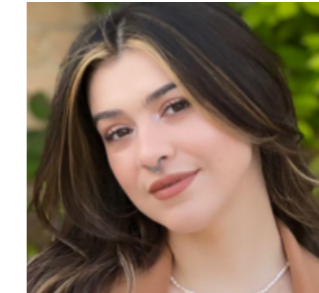
As my time at the University of Oxford draws to a close, I feel deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to specialise further in the history, politics and economics of Latin America and to have been able to extend my Portuguese, French and Spanish language skills. Throughout the programme at the LAC, I have enjoyed deepening my awareness of regions in the Global South as well as being academically engaged, which overall has made this both a rewarding and valuable experience. Due to my background as an Afro-Brazilian, it has been fascinating to learn more about my own country, whilst carrying out independent research projects and studying hemispheric patterns and trends.

MPhil Students



Sarah Phillips

Born and raised in upstate New York, I hold a B.A. in Spanish and International Relations from SUNY Geneseo. After graduating, I spent a year living and working in Pasto, Colombia on a Fulbright teaching assistantship. Prior to arriving in Oxford, I also worked at the Inter-American Dialogue, a think tank focused on Western Hemisphere affairs. In this role I helped inform and shape policies to promote energy security and climate change mitigation in the region. During my MPhil, my thesis focused on how and to what extent rainwater harvesting systems have been successful in reducing water precarity for communities in urban peripheral areas of Mexico City. More broadly, my academic interests center on the nexus between gender and climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean.



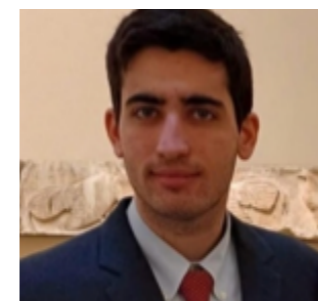
Amalia L. Menjivar

I completed my undergraduate education at San Francisco State University where I double-majored in International Relations and Political Science, with a minor in Latin American Studies. It was at SF State that I fell in love with learning about the history, culture, and most recently, identities of the region, and which I now plan to focus on for my MPhil thesis. I'll be in El Salvador this summer conducting fieldwork on indigenous identities and the connection to cultural heritage monuments and am excited for what I'll learn- and to be doing this at the LAC!



Nicolás Zuluaga Afanador

I am a Colombian student interested in the peace-making process in my country. After studying a bachelor's in law at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá) and volunteering for some years in peripheral communities in Colombia, I served as a clerk and Senior Researcher at the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP), a transitional justice institution that investigates, judges, and sanctions the crimes committed during the internal armed conflict. My current research interest is to analyse from an interdisciplinary perspective how the SJP's operation could affect its own legitimacy. Beyond my academic studies, I like to travel, meditate, run, and read literature.



Rodrigo de la Flor

My name is Rodrigo Pablo de la Flor Pila, I am a Peruvian MPhil student in Latin American Studies (2022-2024). Before coming to the LAC, I studied history and political sciences in University Carlos III in Madrid.

My main interest lies in Latin American and Spanish history. I am fascinated by the forces that led to the independences in the region, and how the new republics struggle to face the challenges of modernity.



Luca Venga

I am a postgraduate student at St. Antony's College, Oxford. I have lived in Italy, the United States and Germany, before moving to England where I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Manchester. I am particularly interested in questions of security, both within and across states, and their relationship with other key trends such as democratization, economic inequalities, development and climate change. I collaborate with Italian-based think-tank IARI (Istituto Analisi Relazioni Internazionali) on these topics, publishing a number of articles in collaboration with other scholars of Latin America.

MPHIL THESES

Uncharted Waters: Assessing the Success of Mexico City's *Cosecha de Lluvia* Program

Sarah Phillips (2021-2023)

In the summer of 2022, I travelled to Mexico City to conduct fieldwork on water scarcity in urban peripheral areas. While in the field, I quickly realised that regardless of the individual I was interviewing, the conversation inevitably led back to one thing: the *Cosecha de Lluvia* program. *Cosecha de Lluvia*—which literally translates to ‘rain harvest’—was a public policy rolled out in 2019 under Mexico City's Head of Government Claudia Sheinbaum. The intervention aims to reduce water precarity in neighbourhoods with high levels of economic marginalisation by installing rainwater harvesting systems on roofs. Now in its fourth year of operation, the program has installed more than 52,000 rainwater capture systems, benefiting families throughout Mexico's capital.

Broadly speaking, my thesis research is motivated by a desire to understand how we can assess the success or failure of public policies in Latin America. I apply my case study, *Cosecha de Lluvia*, to an adapted version of political scientist Allan McConnell's (2010) framework for determining the success of policy outcomes. The novelty of my work derives from its inclusion of an analytical category previously ignored by McConnell: positive and negative externalities. By exploring these ‘uncharted waters’, I demonstrate how important understanding and assessing successful intervention outcomes is for both academia and policymaking.



Water feature outside the Castillo de Chapultepec



Rooftop tinacos in the Cuauhtémoc Borough

RECOGNISED STUDENTS

Students registered for a PhD at another university conducting postgraduate research on Latin American Studies, who were based at the LAC while doing research for their theses in Oxford this academic year.



Luiza Vilela Amelotti

I am a PhD Candidate in Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE, Brazil) as well as a member of the International Relations and Comparative Politics Study Group (NEPI/UFPE) and Brazilian Ministry of Education fellow (PrInt, CAPES). As a Recognised Student at the Latin American Centre for 2023 Hilary and Trinity Terms, I was supervised by Professor David Doyle. My research topics are related to political ideology, content analysis and regional leaderships. Using data from Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa, and Turkey, I analyze the effects of ideology in the Heads of State's speeches at the UN General Assembly.



Martin Mejia

Originally from Quito, Ecuador, I am a Doctoral Candidate at Tulane University and Lecturer in Political Theory at Universidad de Palermo. Before arriving at Oxford, I was a Visiting Doctoral Fellow at Yale University-MacMillan Centre and previously obtained a MA. in Political Theory at the University of Essex. My research topics have focused on political representation, democracy, populism, and religion in Latin America. Furthermore, my scholarship and research projects have been supported by the Stone Center of Latin American Studies at Tulane University, the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and the Tinker Foundation. At Oxford, I was a Recognised Student for the Hilary Term under the supervision of the Head of Social Sciences, Professor Timothy Power.



Olivier Keller

I am a historian and visiting PhD candidate from the University of Zurich. My geographical areas of interest are the Americas, especially Mexico and the USA. In my dissertation project *Setting the Course for Cooperation and Connection: The United States Railway Mission to Mexico (1942-1946)* I explore a crucial moment in the shared history of Mexico and the USA: their diplomatic and economic rapprochement during World War II. I do so through looking first at the extensive cooperation project between the unequal neighbors, which had the aim of rehabilitating the Mexican railroads. To fully grasp the dimensions of my object of study, I want to adopt and combine methodological approaches from infrastructure history, diplomatic history, environmental history, or the history of capitalism.



Ambrosio Moreno

I am a PhD candidate at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. My background is in Economics, with a MA degree in Government and Public Administration. My doctoral research is related to institutional development in Latin America. In addition to my research role, I hold an executive position as VP for Latin America at Ion Beam Applications, S.A., one of the main global leaders in the field of nuclear medicine



Evertton Lira

I am a PhD candidate in Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE - Recife, Brazil) and was a recognised student at the Latin American Centre during Hilary and Trinity terms. My research topics include federalism, political parties and multi-level governance of the welfare state. Using data from Brazilian municipalities, I focus on how partisan alignment between levels of government impacts welfare provision. My student scholarship is funded by the Brazilian Federal Foundation for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES).



Otávio Zilioli Catelano

I am a PhD Student in Political Science at the State University of Campinas (Unicamp) and a Brazilian Ministry of Education fellow (PrInt, CAPES). My research examines how new communication technologies are affecting representative democracies. More specifically, I study the use of WhatsApp and how it influences individual decision-making in Brazilian elections. Furthermore, I am a member of the Brazilian Politics Study Group (PolBras), affiliated with the Center for Studies on Public Opinion (CESOP-Unicamp). I was a CESOP researcher during the 2018 and 2022 editions of the Observatory of Elections (INCT IDDC, CNPq) and am now an ANPOCS researcher for the project ‘The Future of Academic Work in Social Sciences’. As a Recognized Student at the LAC for 2023 Hilary and Trinity Terms, I was supervised by Professor Timothy Power.

My year at the Latin American Centre Cassio Calvete

At the end of a year at the Latin American Centre I have extremely positive reflections on my time as a visiting researcher. Not only in the development of my research, which was the expected and main objective, but mainly for the knowledge I acquired about Latin America. The quantity and quality of the lectures, on the most diverse countries, themes and different approaches, gave me a broad, deep and diverse vision of our region. This period immersed me in Latin American issues and provided me with a unique opportunity for knowledge and reflection on the region.



Here I was able to develop my research with all the support that an academic environment can provide. The LAC also offered a welcoming space for the doubts and challenges that my research presents. My research has benefited from the cutting-edge discussions about new technologies held at the University without ever losing sight of Brazil's peripheral location in technological advances.

The research project that I have been developing and refining during this period is entitled "Industry 4.0 and its impacts on working time: A study for Brazil". It is dedicated to understanding the impacts that artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithmic management have on working time. We know that the tools that use AI are diverse and constantly expanding, as well as the types of occupations they impact and how they do so. However, we seek to stick to the more general aspects that appear as problems in many labour relations and are often neglected by scholars, judges and legislators. We seek to identify similar problems, in different occupations, to propose broad policies that work as an umbrella protecting basic rights and worker's time. The similar problems in the new occupations occur in part by the intense use of the new technologies used in management with artificial intelligence, software, algorithms and surveillance and, in part, by the hegemony of a managerial vision recognized as originating in Silicon Valley.

Given the multiplicity of cases, forms of management and impacts, we can cite several basic rights that are being disrespected. These have already been discussed extensively in society and have been occurring for so long they almost appear consensual. I refer to the civilizing norms of labour relations that guarantee a Minimum Wage for every worker, the right to vacation, the right to insurance, the right to retirement and more. These rights are recognized in the Brazilian Constitution and in ILO Resolutions. However, our research goes beyond these and is dedicated to the "new" problems that management by algorithm and artificial intelligence have been inserting in labour relations and that in one way or another impact the three dimensions of working time (intensity, distribution and extension). These include the lack of transparency, manipulation, the asymmetry of information, the lack of privacy, the gamification and gamblefication, and others. These problems are common, in whole or in part, to all workers managed by algorithms and artificial intelligence whether they are platform workers, micro-entrepreneurs or even formal workers. Our research aims to identify them and unveil the techniques used for their implementation and propose alternatives to eliminate or at least mitigate the problems that impact workers and society.

Leticia Ruiz's work on Latin American Political Parties and Spanish Think Tanks in the Region

During my sabbatical year I have been an academic visitor at the Latin American Centre. I have spent ten months in Oxford, starting in September 2022. Once I finish this research period, I will go back to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), Faculty of Political Science and Sociology, where I am an Associate Professor.

I would summarize my work while in the Latin American Centre around three pillars. First, I have joined LAC seminars. Activities in the LAC have been very inspiring. They have widened my view on Latin America, refreshed my knowledge about history and its past, and provided me with the latest insights about the region. At the same time, I have met other academic visitors, as well as master's and PhD students, researchers, and Oxford professors. The LAC has such a nice atmosphere of camaraderie, study and work, and it has refreshed my enthusiasm for the region. This will certainly have a ripple effect as I go back to teach at UCM, given one of my courses is Latin American Political Systems.

Second, I have developed different aspects of my project on the relationship between Latin American political parties and think tanks (TT) funded by the Spanish government. On the one hand, I have been reading articles and books on the topic thanks to the resources available at the University of Oxford. On the other hand, I have collected all sorts of information on partisan think tanks and I have prepared interviews. Also, I am currently writing specifically about collaborations between think tanks and parliamentary groups in the region.

Third, I have been working on publishing. Over the past few months, I have reviewed several manuscripts that have been published in 2023. In *Colombia Internacional* (vol. 112) we study the role of Chilean TT during 2021 presidential elections. The analysis shows that TT adapt their communicative agenda to the electoral campaign and that their ideology is a principal variable in this strategy. I have also published two articles that run an extensive comparison across Latin American political parties. One of the articles has just been published in *Political Studies Review*. We show that Latin American legislators belonging to the left conform to party discipline more frequently than those of the right wing. Another of the articles has recently appeared in the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinions and parties*. It is an analysis of how clientelism reduces the ideological differentiation of political parties in Latin America. I have also contributed to another work with colleagues on European dynamics which can be found in *Comparative European Politics*.



Thank you to the LAC for having me, for the things I have learnt, and for what this year has meant in personal and academic terms.

By Leticia María Ruiz Rodríguez

Associate professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid at the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology
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ACADEMIC VISITORS

Antonio Celia offers a summary of his involvement in peace-making in Colombia, the subject of the essay he wrote during his LAC visit.



As the CEO of a major energy company in the Caribbean Coast of Colombia in the 90s and early 2000s (1992-2018), my professional life involved inevitable and frequent interactions with armed groups, be it through extortion attempts or threats on my life. Nevertheless, I also had the opportunity to

have a seat at the negotiating table with armed groups as different governments tried again and again to achieve peace. Two of the events I witnessed in peace processes with the ELN and FARC, as well as the lessons I learned during these experiences, are at the centre of the essay I wrote during my academic visit at the LAC.

On 28 January 2002, in a private room at the Hotel Palco in Havana, a group of Colombian private sector leaders met with Cuban President Fidel Castro. We had come to Havana by special invitation from President Andrés Pastrana (1998-2002) to restart talks with five representatives of the Marxist ELN guerrilla group, with whom dialogue had been suspended for several years. The group's members were: Nicanor Restrepo, Head of the Grupo Empresarial Antioqueño, Sabas Pretelt, President of the Federation of Commerce (Fenalco), Luis Carlos Villegas, President of the National Association of Industrials (ANDI) and myself, at the time CEO of Promigas, the country's leading natural gas company.

After almost four hours of conversations, Fidel asked us: "Are you, such an important group of private sector leaders, willing to lead the funding required to pay the cost of demobilizing the ELN?" Nicanor, the group's de facto leader, answered 'yes' to Fidel without any hesitation. The entire group that met Fidel had previously agreed we would be willing to do so if need be. We recognized that, in order to end the armed conflict, the business community had to play a prominent role.

The four members of the business community mentioned above joined a negotiating team of some 40 people in Havana that had participated in similar encounters in the past. This new encounter in Havana had been named the Summit for Peace (Cumbre por la paz). We left the meeting with Fidel very

enthusiastic and with candid illusions. When we arrived back in Colombia, President Pastrana was also optimistic and told us to expect reactions from the ELN's Central Command. Some time later, we were told that there was no agreement among the ELN leaders in the way the negotiations were being conducted. We felt that a great opportunity had been lost not only because of our positive attitude toward the eventual demobilization and willingness to fund such a process, but because of the key role Fidel wanted to play in helping end the conflict, given that he was ELN guerrilleros' role model. Today, 21 years later, the ELN not only still exists but is bigger, more active, and continues to wreak havoc in different areas of the country.

Thirteen years after that encounter with Fidel, in the late afternoon of 7 December 2015, a time in which the government of Juan Manuel Santos had been negotiating with the FARC for over three years in a highly polarized environment, I once again found myself in the middle of peace efforts. As part of a small group of business members supporting the negotiations, I met with Senator Iván Duque and former Presidential candidates Oscar Iván Zuluaga and Carlos Homes Trujillo, distinguished members of the Centro Democrático (CD), former President Álvaro Uribe's opposition party. We had been meeting for several months in order to find common ground between what was being discussed in peace talks in Havana and the CD's main criticisms of said talks. During this latest meeting, I asked the three of them if we could inform Humberto De la Calle, the Santos government's lead negotiator in Havana, that both parties "were very close to agreeing on a set of main issues regarding the government's deal with FARC". They agreed.

After a short meeting with De la Calle, our delegation left his office very optimistic, as this sort of initial agreement with the opposition would finally allow us to not only find a path for a definitive peace accord with FARC after more than 40 years of conflict but one that would garner widespread support from the public. Once again, I had illusions. But two hours later, former President Uribe, leader of the opposition, said that the agreement we had reached was absurd and insisted that President Santos was surrendering the country to the FARC and that Colombia would become a "castrochavista" country. He went against what his "delegates" had just told us. Yet another disappointment. Congress would eventually ratify a revised accord after the original one was rejected in a referendum, and the oldest guerrilla in America became a political party in December 2016.

As the current government begins talks with the ELN once again, I hope leaders at the negotiating table can use the lessons learned from previous efforts, even (or especially) those that did not succeed.

I am very grateful with all members of LAC, especially Eduardo Posada and David Doyle, who made my visit possible. My discussions with colleagues and staff enriched my work and my perspectives and helped me produce the best version of this essay I could.

Alumni

Clorrie Yeomans

MPhil 2020-2022

As a Brit who has lived and worked among the vineyards of Mendoza, the history of the commercial ties between the UK and Argentina captures my imagination. Seven thousand miles across the Atlantic, I found traces of my home country, along the railway tracks, among the crowds of River Plate fans, and through the rock music that accompanied our Sunday asados. Studying the MPhil at the LAC from 2020 to 2022, supported by the William de Segundo (Canning Club) Scholarship, equipped me with the skills and the connections to launch my career in strengthening UK-Latin American relations. Upon graduating from Oxford, the perfect opportunity surged to join Canning House as the Corporate Affairs Assistant in January 2023.

Canning House is the leading forum for strengthening commercial, diplomatic, and cultural ties between the UK and Latin America. I have joined the organisation during a landmark moment: our eightieth anniversary. While we cherish our history, we are also cultivating fresh ideas under our new CEO and former UK Minister of State to Latin America, Jeremy Browne. Recently, we moved into more spacious offices near St James's Park: a stone's throw away from Parliament. We look forward to opening our doors to the public and making Canning House the hub for Latin American affairs in London.

As Corporate Affairs Assistant, my main focus is to strengthen and diversify business relations between the UK and Latin America. Primarily, I help to organise our Trade and Sustainable Investment Series alongside our Head of Corporate Affairs, Juan Terán Jurado. These conferences are open to the public and cover multiple sectors including agriculture, mining, technology, and financial services. In March, we held an Infrastructure Conference with expert speakers including the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Argentina; the Global Head of Infrastructure at KPMG, and the CEO of Crossrail International. In



Alumna Clorrie Yeomans, with the Governor of Rio and the Canning House Team.

April, we organised a financial services conference at JP Morgan's headquarters in London, for which the crowning jewel was a 'fireside chat' with the Chairman of Revolut.

Alongside conferences, during my first six months at Canning House, I have helped to organise two business roundtables to connect our Corporate Members with key government and private-sector stakeholders. In April, Cláudio Castro, Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, discussed investment opportunities in Brazil. During London Tech Week, we convened top tech companies from the UK and across Latin America to share their pioneering ideas in robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Google's offices. On the diplomatic side, the reception for UK and Latin American ambassadors in June captured Canning House's convening purpose. Finally, my job has brought me full circle, to Oxford, where Canning House held its annual UK-Brazil Conversa at the Blavatnik School of Government in June.

We have plenty more in the pipeline for the rest of 2023! Our Trade and Sustainable Investment Series is pushing

ahead with conferences on green finance, mining, renewable energy, and food and beverages. Together with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, we are planning Dominican Week 2023: a series of investment promotion events which will examine the hot topic of nearshoring. Our webinars will analyse the forthcoming elections in Argentina, Ecuador, and Guatemala. We will wrap up the year by presenting our flagship LatAm Outlook report, forecasting the key trends that will shape the region in 2024.

This is a mere snippet of how Canning House is showing the UK that Latin America cannot be overlooked. We believe the region is brimming with potential: through its entrepreneurship and innovation, its rich history and culture, and its leadership in fighting climate change. I know that I'm preaching to the converted! But I do hope that I have enticed you to attend Canning House events, to follow our social media and newsletter, and to work together to champion Latin America here in the UK.

Get in touch at corporate@canninghouse.org.

Alumni

Humberto Juárez Rocha

MSc 2020-2021



I'm currently an editor with OPIS, which is part of Dow Jones, covering the European carbon markets and based in London. It's been an incredibly interesting time to cover these markets in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and I've reported from within and outside the different entities that create the legislative frameworks that have shifted as a response to this energy crisis. I've traveled to Egypt, Belgium, Scotland and I'm hoping to make more work trips to Latin America, primarily Brazil and Colombia, with the growing biodiversity credit market.

My time at the LAC was instrumental in attaining a better grasp on how economics and a continent's geopolitics affects the decisions that large companies make, primarily energy ones in my field, to how the end-line consumer budgets for these changes over the course of the different seasons. Having focused on Latin America and its social, economic and energy development primarily through the informal economy in Mexico City in the last decade has helped me understand the positioning of European energy and trade policy with a more comprehensive outlook and one that I plan to continue improving as a journalist.

Juanita Ardila Hidalgo

MSc 2020-2021

2020 will always be in the mind of our and future generations as the year when COVID-19 hit. The pandemic reminded people of the importance of adaptation, resilience, and perseverance. In my case, 2020 was not only the year of the pandemic but also the year when I got admitted to Oxford for the MSc in Latin American Studies. While in March the idea of starting my master's degree seemed feasible, the restrictions and measures to prevent the spread of the virus made the months before the beginning of the classes a complete journey of unpredictable challenges. More than once, I felt that it was not going to be possible to enrol in 2020, but the encouraging messages from the LAC and the OSGA, as well as the support from my family and friends, brought the strength and confidence back. In the end, everything worked well, and by October 2020, I was travelling to the UK to begin the classes and meet the professors and other students of my cohort. Today, almost three years later, I remember all the challenges and uncertainties, and I have no doubt it was all worth it. Having the opportunity to study, read and take part in thoughtful discussions about the past, present and future of Latin America, guided by expert professors in a fully academic environment, was exactly how I expected my time at Oxford would be.

My time at the LAC was challenging, at times overwhelming, but also very rewarding. I took classes in diverse fields such as history, human rights, sociology, politics, and I even had Portuguese lessons. All sessions brought different perspectives that helped me to get a better understanding of the political realities, as well as the struggles of the people in the region.

After finishing the MSc, I became the research assistant of a student of the MPhil in Development Studies for her thesis research on Colombian social movements of Indigenous women for gender justice. After that, I started working for the Gender and Diversity Division of the Interamerican Development Bank. I support the preparation of studies on how to close gender socioeconomic gaps and how to promote the inclusive and sustainable development of the region with a particular focus on the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ population. At the Bank, I also support the preparation of corporate reports on gender and diversity mainstreaming.

The LAC is a place full of passionate, brilliant, and committed people. This place, even during the exceptional times of the pandemic, felt like home to me and it will always be a place where I would want to come back.



Robin Pearson

MSc 2018-2019



I studied at the LAC in the 2018-19 year, after becoming interested in Latin American history during studies in Spain and the UK. While at the LAC, I took modules on international relations, organised crime, and sociology, and my thesis focused on the reasons behind Central American countries' choice to diplomatically recognise either China or Taiwan. I greatly enjoyed my time in Oxford, particularly the opportunity to mix academic discussion with social events and the community atmosphere of the department (such as drinks and card games in the LAC garden when the British summer was cooperative), which made the year an overall enriching experience.

Since graduating, I've been working at Wallbrook, a due diligence and human rights consultancy based in London. Day-to-day, my job involves researching and writing reports for clients who are looking to be made aware of, and understand, "red flags" surrounding their business partners (such as issues to do with corruption, money laundering, and legal issues), so that they can make informed decisions about who they work with; we also conduct assessments of companies' human rights impact in areas where they operate. Sitting within the company's Latin American team, I regularly compile reports on high-profile figures and businesses across the region and assess the types of issues that clients should consider when partnering with them.

My time at the LAC greatly helped with this line of work. In addition to the thorough research and writing skills that we developed during the MSc, I have regularly applied the political and historical knowledge I gained during my studies, which has helped to contextualise certain political and regulatory dynamics that come up in our research. The chance to verbally present ideas and essays in seminars at the LAC was also valuable in developing presentation skills that I've applied in interviews, client presentations, and other settings.



Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet

Following a nomination by Professor Leigh Payne, Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile (pictured here with Timothy Power) received a doctorate honoris causa from the University on 21st June 2023. The Chancellor, Lord Patten of Barnes, admitted her to the University with the following words: *Populi tui dux et propugnatrix dignissima, quae contendis ut dolores iniquitatis et iniquitates dolorum mitiges, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Iure Civili honoris causa* ("Worthy leader and champion of your people, who strive to relieve the pain of injustice and the injustice of suffering, I on my own authority and that of the whole University admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law"). The LAC congratulates her on this fine achievement, and remembers fondly the online lecture she delivered to our students in Trinity Term 2021 while serving as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

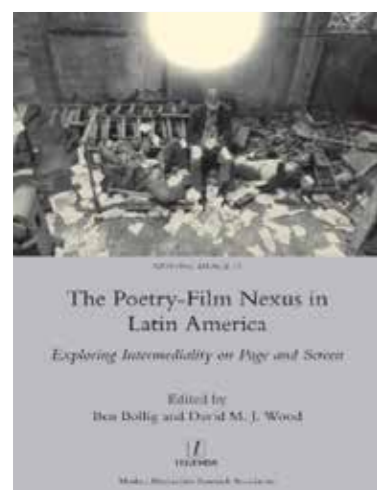


Publications

Selection of recent books and essays that reflect the work of members of the LAC community.

The Poetry-Film Nexus in Latin America. Exploring Intermediality on Page and Screen

Edited by Ben Bollig and David M. J. Wood. Oxford: Legenda, 2022.



Filmmakers often mine novels and plays for stories and characters, but what happens when poetry appears on screen? In this edited volume, contributors explore the rich corpus of Latin American films that operate where poetry and cinema meet. Examples include the adaptation of poems to film; the characterisation of poets on screen; the role of poets as filmmakers; the concept of the 'poetic film'; approaches to the 'cinema of poetry' (drawing on writings by Pasolini, in particular); poetic documentaries; and the use of poetry in avant-garde film. Contributions range from silent cinema to contemporary works, and from Mexico through Brazil to the Southern Cone, including studies of films by María Luisa Bemberg, Pablo Larraín, Guillermo del Toro, as well as independent video and media artists. Ben Bollig is an Associate Member of the LAC and Professor in Spanish American Literature. David M.J. Wood is an Investigador Titular in the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM, Mexico City.

<https://www.mhra.org.uk/publications/Poetry-Film-Nexus-in-Latin-America>

Moving Verses. Poetry on Screen in Argentine Cinema.

Ben Bollig. Liverpool University Press, 2021.

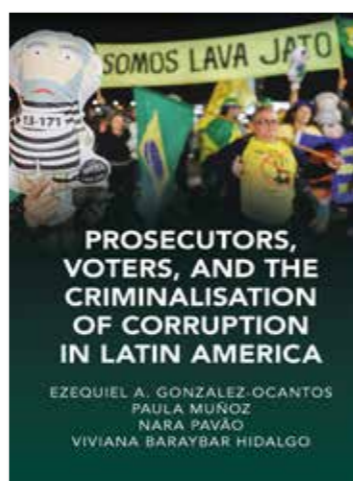


From *Wild Tales* to *Zama*, Argentine cinema has produced some of the most visually striking and critically lauded films of the 2000s. Argentina also boasts some of the most exciting contemporary poetry in the Spanish language. What happens when its film and poetry meet on screen? *Moving Verses* studies the relationship between poetry and cinema in Argentina. This book analyses how film and poetry transform each other, and how these two expressive media behave when placed into dialogue. Going beyond theories of adaptation, and engaging critically with concepts around intermediality and interdisciplinarity, *Moving Verses* offers tools and methods for studying both experimental and mainstream film from Latin America and beyond, including some of Argentina's most exciting and radical contemporary directors (Raúl Perrone, Gustavo Fontán) as well as established modern masters (María Luisa Bemberg, Eliseo Subiela), and seldom studied experimental projects (Narcisa Hirsch, Claudio Caldini). Ben Bollig is an Associate Member of the LAC and Professor in Spanish American Literature.

<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781800859784>

The Promise and Pitfalls of Lava Jato

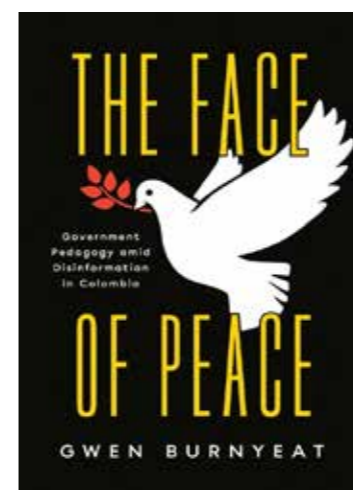
Ezequiel Gonzalez-Ocantos, Paula Muñoz, Nara Pavão and Viviana Baraybar, Prosecutors, Voters, and the Criminalisation of Corruption in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 2023)



Lava Jato, a transnational bribery case that started in Brazil and spread throughout Latin America, upended elections and collapsed governments. Why did the investigation gain momentum in some countries but not others? The book traces reforms that enhanced prosecutors' capacity to combat white-collar crime and shows that Lava Jato became a full-blown anti-corruption crusade where reforms were coupled with the creation of aggressive taskforces. For some, prosecutors' unconventional methods were necessary and justified. Others saw dangerous affronts to due process and democracy. Given these controversies, how did voters react to a once-in-a-generation attempt to clean politics? Can prosecutors trigger hope, conveying a message of possible regeneration? Or does aggressive prosecution erode the tacit consensus around the merits of anti-corruption? Prosecutors, Voters and The Criminalization of Corruption in Latin America is a study of the impact of accountability through criminalization, one that dissects the drivers and dilemmas of resolute transparency efforts.

The Face of Peace

Gwen Burnyeat, The Face of Peace: Government Pedagogy amid Disinformation in Colombia (University of Chicago Press, 2022).



Colombia's 2016 peace agreement with the FARC guerrillas sought to end fifty years of war and won President Juan Manuel Santos the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet Colombian society rejected it in a polarizing referendum, amid an emotive disinformation campaign. Gwen Burnyeat joined the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the government institution responsible for peace negotiations, to observe and participate in an innovative "peace pedagogy" strategy to explain the agreement to Colombian society. Burnyeat's multi-scale ethnography reveals the challenges government officials experienced communicating with skeptical audiences and translating the peace process for public opinion. She argues that the fatal flaw in the peace process lay in government-society relations, enmeshed in culturally liberal logics and shaped by the politics of international donors. The Face of Peace offers the Colombian case as a mirror to the global crisis of liberalism, shattering the fantasy of rationality that haunts liberal responses to "post-truth" politics.

Measuring and Assessing Subnational Electoral Democracy: A New Dataset for the Americas and India

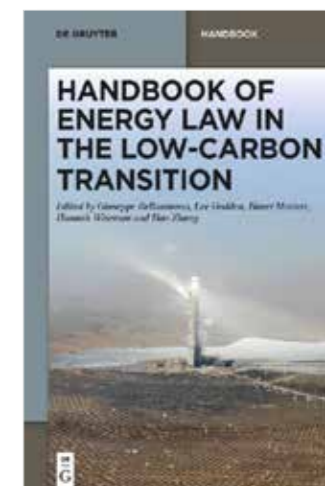
Javier Pérez Sandoval. 2023. *Democratization*, Vol. 30, 4, pp. 715-740



In this paper I present the Index of Subnational Electoral Democracy (ISED), a measure that tracks the electoral dimension of democracy across the provinces of nine Latin American countries, the United States, Canada, and India for a period of roughly 40 years, making it the largest dataset on subnational regime outcomes to date. I then use the ISED to underscore the preponderance of regime hybridity at the subnational level, along with 4 other descriptive findings. I conclude this piece by outlining the ISED's research applications for future research on subnational democracy.

Handbook of Energy Law in the Low-Carbon Transition

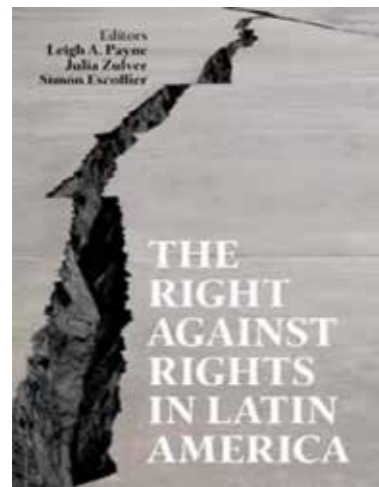
Anglés Hernández, Marisol and Valenzuela, Jose Maria. "Mexico: Energy Transition in an Uncertain Legal and Institutional Setting". Handbook of Energy Law in the Low-Carbon Transition, edited by Giuseppe Bellantuono, Lee Godden, Hanri Mostert, Hannah Wiseman and Hao Zhang, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 451-466. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110752403-035>



What is the state of energy transition law and governance in Mexico? To answer this question, we describe Mexico's energy and environmental governance system as result of unresolved conflict of two political economy project, neoliberal and statist, occurring under the gravitational pull of the fossil fuel political economy of the United State. We challenge suggestions that pre-AMLO legal and policy frameworks were consistent with the Paris Agreement, but the statist turn has not resulted in a decisive turn toward low-carbon energy. Hence, we consider the way in which statist governance frameworks could serve as the basis for a low-carbon economy in a more mercantilist global economy.

The Right Against Rights in Latin America

Leigh Payne, Julia Zulver, Simón Escoffier, *The Right Against Rights in Latin America* (Oxford University Press, 2023).



From President Bolsonaro's openly racist, misogynist, and homophobic rhetoric in Brazil, to the politicisation of gender ideology leading to the rejection of a peace deal in Colombia and beyond, Latin America is home to right-against-rights movements that have grown in numbers, strength, and influence in recent years. New anti-rights groups are intent on blocking, rolling back, and reversing social movements' legislative advances by obstructing justice and accountability processes and influencing politicians across the region. In *The Right against Rights in Latin America*, we empirically explore the breadth, depth, and diversity of a new wave of anti-rights movements in Latin America. We detail why they are fundamentally different from previous movements in the region, and — perhaps more importantly — why it is of vital importance that we study, analyse, and understand them in a global context.

Party Discipline in Latin America: The Role of Party Ideology

Patricia Otero and Leticia M. Ruiz Rodríguez. 2023. *Political Studies Review*.



We explore the effect of party ideology on legislators' perceptions of party discipline in Latin America. The difficulties for parliamentary groups to act cohesively in Latin America make party discipline and its study a major task. We argue that party ideology shapes the perceptions of legislators vis-à-vis their relative autonomy and the resulting ability of the party to be cohesive. To perform the analysis, we have constructed a database containing the responses of 1272 parliamentarians from 71 political parties in 17 countries across the 2011–2022 legislatures. In addition to party-related variables, we have included individual- and system-level variables. The results suggest that Latin American parliamentarians belonging to left-wing parties tend to conform to party discipline more frequently than those of the right wing.

Democracy Under Pressure

Laurence Whitehead, 'United States–Canada: The Two Overlapping Democratic Trajectories in North America', and Argentina–Chile–Uruguay: Comparing Trajectories of Democratisation in Latin America's Southern Cone', in Ursula Van Beek, ed. *Democracy Under Pressure: Resilience Or Retreat?*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.



This book identifies the main factors shaping the fortunes of democracy globally. Why do some democracies in the same region and presumably subject to similar global influences remain stable while others regress? This is the question guiding all the authors of this edited book. In the search for answers, they examine 16 democracies in paired and tripled comparisons in sub-Saharan Africa, North and Latin America, East Asia, Western and Central Europe, along with two polar cases. Insights from the perspectives of history, political science, economics and international relations are offered along with a sketch of possible future scenarios. Combining approaches anchored in the analytical tradition with empirical case studies and given the broad range of topics, this book is bound to be of interest not only to students and practitioners of democracy but also to the broader academic and general readership.

Latin America in Times of Turbulence

Laurence Whitehead, (with Yanina Welp) 'Referendums about Presidential Mandates: Deviations or Correctives?'; (with Jacqueline Behrend) 'Dynasties, Double-Dealings and Delinquencies: Some Entangled Features of Subnational Politics in Mexico', in Mariana Llanos and Leiv Marsteintredet (Eds) *Latin America in Times of Turbulence: Presidentialism under Stress* (Routledge, 2023)



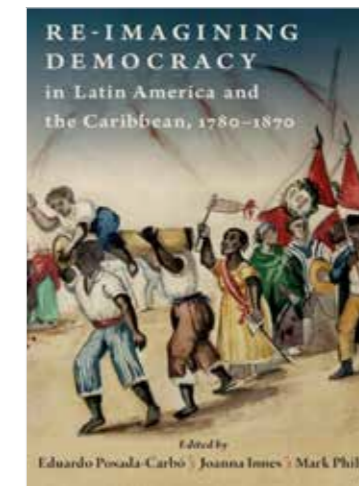
This book accounts for and analyses the latest developments in Latin American presidential democracies, with a special focus on political institutions.

The stellar line-up of renowned scholars of Latin American politics and institutions from Latin America, Europe, and the United States offer new insights into how democratic institutions have operated within the critical context that marked the political and social life of the region in the last few years: the eruption of popular protest and discontent, the widespread distrust of political institutions, and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. Combining different methodological approaches, including cross-national studies, small-N studies, case studies, and quantitative and qualitative data, the contributions cluster around three themes: the problem with fixed terms and other features of presidentialism, inter-institutional relations and executive accountability, and old and new threats to democracy in these times of turmoil. The volume concludes with an assessment of the political consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America.

Beyond current scholars and students of comparative political scientists, *Latin America in Times of Turbulence* will be of great interest to a wide spectrum of readers interested in comparative systems of government, democracy studies, and Latin American politics more generally.

Re-Imagining Democracy

Re-imagining Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1780-1870. Edited by Eduardo Posada-Carbo, Joanna Innes, and Mark Philp (Oxford University Press, 2023)



Re-imagining Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1780-1870 examines the ways in which the ancient concept of “democracy” was re-imagined as relevant to the modern world in Latin America and the Caribbean between the later eighteenth and later nineteenth centuries. In most regions this process largely followed the French Revolution, while in Latin America it more closely followed independence movements of the 1810s and 20s. This volume studies how a variety of political actors and commentators used “democracy” to characterize or debate modern conditions through the ensuing half-century. By 1870, it was firmly established in mainstream political lexicons throughout the region. Here, specialists in the field contribute wide-ranging accounts of aspects of the context in which the word was re-imagined, highlighting state formation, race, constitutionalism, urban political culture, education, and outside views of the region — the six concluding chapters explore differences in its fortune from location to location. Ultimately, this edited volume deftly explores the history of the language of democracy and encourages new debates about its meaning.

Summer Garden Party at the LAC

The LAC's end-of-year celebration continues to thrive, and this year was no exception. Students, faculty, and friends of the Centre gathered on Friday, June 23rd to toast to the end of yet another successful academic year. For many, it was an opportunity to bid farewell to members of our community before parting ways. In particular, LAC director David Doyle expressed heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Francesca Lessa as she takes on a new role at University College London. While she will be deeply missed at the LAC, we wish her all the best in her position as Associate Professor in International Relations of the Americas.

A playlist collectively curated by students—including reggaeton, salsa, bachata, and more—helped guests to stay moving on the dance floor. Even mother nature herself indulged us, providing the perfect backdrop of a warm summer's day. Basking in the British sun, something many of us have seldom had the chance to do in the last nine months, was not taken for granted by anyone. As always, small sandwiches, desserts, and bountiful wine kept the conversation flowing long past the party's intended end time. All in all, the party reflected an idyllic end to another fruitful year at the Latin American Centre.



LAC students enjoying the summer party



Students and faculty posing for a picture (enjoying the bottle of aguardiente Nico brought from Colombia!)



Members of Leigh Payne's sociology class at the LAC's Garden Party, Jun/2023

Student life outside the LAC

In addition to many hours spent in Oxford's various libraries, students at the Latin American Centre found time to take advantage of the extracurricular activities offered by the university.



Day Trip to Blenheim Palace



LAC students Leonie and Amalia at a Peruvian society event



Happy hour at Linacre College



Nico, Sarah, Javier and Henry at the Mexico-Argentina World Cup game in London with students from Cambridge's Latin American Studies program



Formal dinner at Teddy Hall-Nicolás, Rodrigo, Isabela, José and Luena



Some day after Econ class during Hilary Term



Presenting homemade feijoada to Peruvian and Colombian friends



World Cup at Wadham College Brazil v. Serbia



Oxford-family dinner at Wadham College



LAC's Christmas Dinner

Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



Feeling fancy at a classical music concert at the Sheldonian Theatre



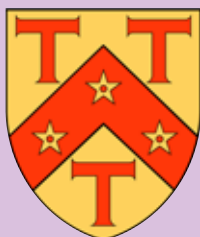
Spring has come to St Antony's



Exams finally over—Luena, Rodrigo, Isabela and José



Where everything began, matriculation day



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10th anniversary of the History Seminar