Table of Contents

2 Letter from the Director
3 Reflecting on Slavery and Freedom in Brazil and the Lusophone Atlantic
5 Violence, Peace, and Democracy in Colombia and Venezuela
6 South America during the Late Cretaceous Period
7 CLAS Supports Student Conferences
8 Bringing Contemporary Poets to UChicago
9 Tinker Visiting Professors
10 Faculty Publications
11 Enriching Research at the Regenstein Library
12 Reports from the Field: Current Graduate Student Research
14 2015–2016 Graduates
15 Conducting and Presenting Undergraduate Research
16 Graduate Grant & Fellowship Award Recipients
17 CLAS Career Webinars: Alaina Harkness
18 Thesis Research That Links Activism and Academia
18 Katz Center for Mexican Studies

Cover Photo

Ebenezer Concepción
PhD Student, Romance Languages & Literatures

Concepción studies modern and contemporary Cuban masculinities. This picture shows young boys playing soccer in the plaza of the Palace of the Revolution in Havana. It depicts the ironic imbrication of politics and play as two symbols of heteronormative Cuban masculinity at work: revolutionary consciousness and sportsmanship.

Established in 1968, the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) brings together faculty and students across the University in interdisciplinary and interdivisional research, teaching, scholarly events, and public engagement related to this vital region of the world.

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Letter from the Director

2015–16 was a whirlwind—for CLAS, for the University of Chicago, and for the region that brings us all together. Many of us struggled to keep up with the pace of events across Latin America, from the restoration of Cuba-US relations to unprecedented crisis in Venezuela and Brazil, from the Olympic Games in Rio to uproars over corruption, immigration, and violence across the hemisphere. The year reminded many of us why it is so important to write and teach about Latin America in the United States, and why it is so crucial that we continue to open channels of collaboration and communication across the University with our Latin American Studies colleagues. It also presented us with many reminders of the energy and advocacy required to support those goals in a quickly shifting university environment.

We are very proud of the scope and range of CLAS activities in 2015–16. CLAS organized or co-organized nearly 90 public events during the academic year. Some aimed for public engagement, some were intense scholarly conversations, and all developed from the energy and initiative of our affiliates. New faculty and visitors led us in stimulating directions: Rachel Galvin and Victoria Saramago injected particular vitality in events ranging from a reading by Nuyorican poet Urayoán Noel to a conference on post-anthropocentric thought in Brazil. Our Tinker Visiting Professors engaged audiences on subjects ranging from Patagonian paleontology to literary biography to Brazilian slavery. CLAS sponsored numerous public events on contemporary affairs, including a standing-room-only talk on the state of Mexican democracy by Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui that was cosponsored with the Katz Center for Mexican Studies and a multifaceted symposium on the Brazilian crisis. Associate Director Natalie Arsenault spearheaded vigorous engagement with educational and cultural institutions around Chicago, and we were particularly happy to collaborate with UChicago Presents to sponsor renowned musicians Miguel Zenón and Sergio Assad. All the while, our committed faculty, graduate affiliates, and visiting scholars engaged us in the kind of warmly critical dialogue that is at the heart of the CLAS mission. None of these events could have taken place without Natalie’s energy and dedication or that of events coordinator Claudia Giribaldi.

CLAS also continued to engage our students in the classroom and support their research throughout the hemisphere, thanks especially to Student Affairs Coordinator Jamie Gentry, Postdoctoral Lecturer Pablo Palomino, and BA Preceptor Enrique Dávila. Through dozens of sponsored courses, interdisciplinary BA and MA programs, robust research support for graduate fieldwork, and coordination and publicity for Latin American courses across UChicago schools and disciplines, CLAS sought to ensure Latin American Studies and scholarship a vital place in UChicago education. Our students did us proud, pushing the boundaries of scholarship and winning a wide array of fellowships and awards. As always, we say a bittersweet good-bye to CLAS students who have completed their degrees: MA and BA students who enlivened our classes and workshops, as well as PhD students who transformed our community through their scholarship, teaching, and critical engagement. Congratulations to all of you: we will miss you here on campus and hope you will remain connected to CLAS as you forge new paths.

CLAS has certainly felt the impact of transformations reshaping UChicago as a whole in 2015–16. Expansion in some areas has opened new connections and opportunities. We have been thrilled to welcome new faculty from Biological Sciences, the SSA, and Harris, and to conceive the future of CLAS beyond traditional area studies. We are especially grateful for a new Mellon endowment that will support scholarly collaboration and institutional cooperation with our Latin American colleagues. In combination with the Tinker Visiting Professorships, the new Mellon resources will help us create increasingly vital spaces on campus for innovative Latin American scholars, activists, artists, and policymakers. Yet new possibilities have also created new challenges. We remain worried about the impact of University-wide cuts in staffing and funding, and believe that it is particularly urgent that new initiatives not come at the expense of our distinctive excellence in the humanities and social sciences. In that spirit, we count on the solidarity and inspiration of everyone who has been part of that tradition for the past half century.

The 2016–17 academic year opens with exciting new possibilities. We welcome new faculty and postdoctoral scholars in Anthropology, Economics, History, Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, the SSA, and the Harris School. Our Tinker Visiting Professors will chart new methodological and thematic terrains. Sergio Assad brings a long family tradition and Latin Grammy–winning musicianship to a course on the history of Brazilian music. Erika Pani will teach innovative courses on race and revolution in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Mexico, and open the newest chapter in a long history of collaboration between UChicago and the Colegio de México. Acclaimed writer Juan Villoro will explore issues of violence and community in contemporary Mexico. Joy Langston will delve into the murky waters of clientelism and democracy in the twenty-first century through her teaching at Harris. CLAS will cosponsor a new working group on Slavery and Visual Culture, and international conferences are in the works on linguistic and cultural exchanges in the Amazon, the legacies of slavery and abolition in Brazilian society, Spanish Golden Age theater, and the global history of Latin American music.

Thanks to everyone who brought energy, creativity, and critical spark to CLAS in 2015–16, and mil gracias to those of you who have already pushed new projects forward for 2016–17. We can’t wait to make this busy year still busier, and look forward to working with you to foster Latin American Studies at the University Chicago.

Yours,

Brodwyn Fischer, Professor of History
Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Reflecting on Slavery and Freedom in Brazil and the Lusophone Atlantic

Erin McCullugh
PhD Candidate, History

On May 13, 1888, the Lei Áurea (Golden Law) effectively abolished slavery throughout Brazil and ushered in a new era of hope and freedom for the remaining men and women still held in bondage at the end of the nineteenth century. Work was suspended for three days after as men and women of all classes celebrated this momentous occasion with masses, speeches, processions, and festivals all designed to ensure that slavery and its abolition would not be forgotten. The centenary of abolition in 1988 brought with it a revitalization of scholarship on the history of slavery and abolition. Nearly 30 years later the field remains as vibrant as ever, in part due to the innovative collaboration between scholars in Brazil and the United States.

An example of such collaboration, “Frontiers of Slavery and Freedom in the 19th Century Lusophone World,” was a one-day seminar in February 2016 hosted by CLAS and organized by Brodwyn Fischer (History) and Keila Grinberg (Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro and CLAS Tinker Visiting Professor). This seminar brought together historians from across the US and Brazil to share research and dialogue about new developments in the field. Presenters and audience were encouraged to critically engage with each other’s research in an effort to explore and expand our understanding of slavery’s formative influence on institutions and sociocultural formations within Brazil and the wider Lusophone Atlantic. Presenters mobilized the “frontiers” theme from a variety of vantage points—methodological, geographic, and temporal—to explore topics such as the internal power dynamics of Brazilian slavery, the meaning of Afro-descendant freedom and the development of racial identities and inequalities, the possibilities for and limits of slaves’ agency and resistance, as well as the myriad links forged between Africa and Brazil.

Today, some of the most dynamic research on slavery and abolition is being done in Brazil and the Lusophone Atlantic world. One of the primary goals of the seminar was to highlight the diverse interdisciplinary methodologies, sources, and sophisticated quantitative methods used by scholars of Brazil to open new questions about the day-to-day lives of slaves and freed persons and to overturn old ideas about slavery and freedom. A variety of sources such as census reports, notarial and judicial records, and newspapers have been mined for quantitative data on demography, labor, crime, households, and occupation that, in turn, can shed light on cultural practices, the formation of families and family life, slave marriage, and patterns of manumission. The study of slavery and freedom in the Lusophone Atlantic is a vibrant and fertile field of research, one with important implications for studying other former slaveholding societies as well.

Dain Borges (History) and discussant Sidney Chalhoub (Harvard University) opened the seminar with a discussion of the first full Brazilian national census of 1872 and its utility for understanding the social composition of Brazil in the late nineteenth century. Borges’s research leads to a deeper understanding of demographics, but it also opens questions about gendered and family patterns of manumission and the access to freedom in the urban environment. Building on similar quantitative foundations, Martha Santos (University of Akron) is beginning to reconstruct the relationship among...
the closing of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, gender, reproduction, and rates of illegal enslavement in Ceará. In “The Past Was Black: Rethinking The Redemption of Ham,” Daryle Williams (University of Maryland) argued that rethinking the relationship between the fine arts and slave society can lead to new ways of understanding the role of enslaved women in shaping Brazilian society.

Newspapers offer another rich source of information on life in the nineteenth century, with scholars reading them in new ways that provide insight into the day-to-day choices and actions of enslaved men and women. For example, through reading runaway slave ads, Marcus Carvalho (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco) illustrated a variety of creative, often duplicitous, strategies and techniques employed by individuals in their bids for freedom and social mobility. Notably, slaves attempted to construct new identities by assuming different names and behaving as if they were already free. New developments in technology and expanded access to newspaper sources are also changing the way historians understand social movements. Maria Helena Machado’s (Universidade de São Paulo) analysis of the abolition-era newspaper A Redenção complicates the narrative of the abolitionist movement in São Paulo by drawing out a multiplicity of voices and laying bare conflicting views on post-abolition labor and society. In turn, these fractures and cleavages can illustrate how freed persons experienced freedom immediately following abolition.

Several presenters highlighted the importance of individual experiences and lives for understanding larger questions about slavery and freedom in the Lusophone world. For historians, the relationship between history and biography has been a troubled one fraught with claims about exceptionality and a lack of representativeness. A lively debate addressed this question of biography and how useful individual experiences can be for understanding broader historical change and larger social processes. Certainly, these stories lend themselves to a compelling narrative style and serve to humanize historical subjects; but, from the research presented over the course of the day, it is clear that these micro-historical accounts offer invaluable insight into the lives and decisions of slaves and freed persons who actively sought to shape their lives in ways both large and small. In turn, these acts altered both the practice of slavery and movements toward abolition. Roquinaldo Ferreira’s (Brown University) analysis of slave flight in Ambriz, Angola, spotlighted daily acts of resistance that shaped slavery and the slave trade in Africa. These small biographies help to reconstruct the social life of African slaves but also point toward a way of understanding the relationship between flight and larger political movements and changes. In a similar vein, through legal records, Mariana Candido (University of Notre Dame) considered the role of gender, sexuality, and patron networks in legal paths to freedom for individual slaves in Benguela, Angola. Together, Ferreira and Candido showed that the links between Brazil and West Central Africa were varied and deep with slaves and freed persons employing similar strategies to shape their lives under slavery and after freedom.

Proving that individual cases can open a multitude of surprising questions, Fischer’s examination of a case involving the murder of a freedwoman by her former mistress led her to questions about the relationship between freedom and the city itself. How did networks and connections between freed slaves and masters persist after abolition? What were the limits to, and meaning of, freedom in a city shaped by slavery?

As Grinberg’s research on the illegal slave trade demonstrated, freedom was far from secure. Moreover, Brazil’s commitment to slavery was such that it markedly shaped the development of international policies and relations. After emancipation, the legacy of slavery was palpable in many ways. Wlamyra Albuquerque’s (Universidade Federal da Bahia) analysis of the links between freedom and socioracial distinction, Israel Ozanam’s (Universidade Estadual de Campinas/visiting student, Harvard) reconstruction of the life of the charming, fast-talking malandro Dr. Anísio, and Felipe Azevedo e Souza’s (Universidade Estadual de Campinas/CLAS visiting student) study of the intersection of race, crime, and political participation revealed the meaning of citizenship, class, and race in post-emancipation Brazil to probe the limits of social mobility for Afro-descendant people. Through paternity suits, Sueann Caulfield (University of Michigan) explored the role of the informal adoption of filhos de criação—children born outside of marriage—to question the continued legacy of slavery through changing meanings of illegitimacy and forms of family in rural Brazil.

Hebe Mattos (Universidade Federal Fluminense/CLAS Visiting Scholar) addressed the legacy of slavery and the slave trade in the twenty-first century. Through the powerful words of the men and women descended from enslaved Africans, Mattos traced the links between private and public memories of slavery and the African past to learn how both continue to shape individual and political identities today. Through these oral histories, Mattos rescued vivid details about the illegal slave trade, experiences within maroon communities, and historical claims to land ownership. Her research moves beyond history as an academic discipline to raise political consciousness about contemporary social movements and the importance of the preservation of African cultural heritage, reminding us of the critical relationship between the past and the present.

Altogether, the research presented over the course of the day attests that the study of slavery and abolition in Brazil remains as lively and dynamic as ever. “Frontiers of Slavery and Freedom” not only engaged with the historical frontiers of slavery and freedom but expanded the modern frontiers of historical enquiry as well. Through continued interdisciplinary and international dialogue, the scholarship on slavery and freedom will undoubtedly move in new and powerful directions that are relevant not only for those of us concerned with the past but for those concerned with the future as well.
In recent years, Venezuela and Colombia have been facing numerous challenges regarding their political future. Colombia, on one hand, witnessed the signing of a historic peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), ending the longest civil war in Latin America. The peace agreement has reinvigorated the calls for justice and the need to address the ongoing problems of land distribution and social inequality. But it has also revived sentiments of despair and skepticism over the likelihood of making peace in a country where violence and terror have persisted for decades. Venezuela, on the other hand, has been struggling with an economic crisis that has resulted in astronomical inflation and growing insecurity, which in turn have aggravated political polarization. The viability of Chavismo is at the heart of this impasse, which opposes those who want to preserve Hugo Chavez’s legacy of social inclusion and those who see the crisis as a sign of government failure and demand political change. In light of these realignments, CLAS organized two events that explored the visual and urban dimensions of democracy and revolutionary politics in Colombia and Venezuela.

In the fall, Alejandro Velasco (New York University) gave a talk on his recent book, Barrio Rising: Urban Popular Politics and the Making of Modern Venezuela, which explores the development of urban popular politics before and during the Bolivarian Revolution. Focusing on the history of 23 de Enero, a Caracas neighborhood developed in the 1950s to house the working poor, Velasco explained...
how residents became an important constituency in national politics and increasingly reshaped the very definition of democracy in Venezuela. By mobilizing urban popular protest and articulating informal mechanisms of negotiation and urban regulation, the residents of 23 de Enero were able to foreground direct, popular forms of democracy, which ultimately set the groundwork for the emergence of Chavismo in the late 1990s. Velasco’s presentation allowed attendees to understand the emergence of Hugo Chavez as the result of a longer history of urban popular politics. Moreover, urban contexts like 23 de Enero are not only crucial for exploring Venezuelan political history and the rise of Chavismo, but might also be critical for examining current political frictions.

In the spring, award-winning photographer Stephen Ferry visited CLAS to present his book Violentology: A Manual of the Colombian Conflict. Combining more than 10 years of photographic work and archival imagery, Ferry’s visual history reveals the complex dynamics of the war since it formally began in 1964, but also conveys the everyday experience of Colombians who have endured different forms of violence ever since. In his interaction with attendees, Ferry reflected on how images can be powerful instruments for documenting human rights violations and establishing political accountability. Despite Ferry’s emphasis on the lived experience of suffering, insecurity, and uncertainty that have surrounded the Colombian conflict, his visual history also displays the modes of resistance and resilience that have been key elements in the process toward peace.

With the situation in both settings changing rapidly, CLAS remains interested in continuing the conversation on violence, peace, and urban popular politics in Colombia and Venezuela, and exploring affairs that will shape future social, political, and economic trends in Latin America.

Late last winter, CLAS held a film screening that gave us a glimpse into the prehistoric period in South America. The new PBS Nature special Raising the Dinosaur Giant, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, traces the discovery of a giant femur excavated after 101 million years of rest in the Argentine desert. The massive bone, which was discovered by a local shepherd, soon grabbed the attention of paleontologists at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio in Trelew, Argentina. One of those paleontologists was Diego Pol, CLAS Tinker Visiting Professor in Winter 2016 and the first Tinker to be hosted by the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy.

During the excavation, Pol and his team determined not only that the femur belonged to a previously unknown dinosaur species, but that it was the largest bone ever unearthed. The dinosaur it belonged to—currently referred to as a titanosaur while awaiting an official scientific name—is estimated to have weighed 77 tons and measured more than 120 feet long. During the dig, Pol and his team discovered more than 200 bones from the same species, signifying that this particular spot held some significance for the titanosaur. In the documentary, Attenborough guides viewers through the process of “raising the dinosaur giant” with the help of stunning CGI visuals and a series of interviews with Pol and other researchers involved in the excavation. Attenborough translates the paleo jargon and significance of each step in the excavation, building up to the final scenes in which we see the unveiling of a life-size replica of the massive titanosaur crafted by a team of Canadian and Argentine specialists.
CLAS Supports Student Conferences

During the 2015–16 academic year, CLAS cosponsored several graduate student conferences. The conferences represented a diverse array of academic fields, departments, and graduate student organizations and featured cutting-edge scholarship and research from and about Latin America. CLAS is pleased to support these important events that highlight student research, offer opportunities for professional development, and expand student networks. Here we list a few of the conferences we cosponsored this past year.

**Gender|Publics|Panics in the Global South**
*Primary sponsors: Comparative Human Development, Sociology*

The conference considered how changing economies and new, international forms of governance, not least the “women’s human rights” industry, have transformed social landscapes across the Global South. The conference was organized around three key themes: urban panics, NGO technocracies, and gendered citizenships. The panel on NGO technocracies examined the role of non-governmental intervention in Guatemala and Brazil and how these transnational interventions have their own logics and politics with existing social structures. The conference brought together approximately 40 people, including graduate students and faculty from the University and beyond.

**Fourth Latin American Policy Forum: Shaping Latin America**
*Primary sponsors: Latin American Matters, Harris School of Public Policy*

The Latin American Policy Forum provided an opportunity for renowned practitioners and world-class policy leaders to discuss Latin American policy issues with current UChicago students and leading academic researchers. In particular, the forum was a unique space of dialogue among policymakers, teachers, and students. The Chicago community benefited from the discussion of Latin American policy issues with renowned practitioners, including former presidents and government ministers, who raised awareness of pressing issues from the region. More than 500 people attended the event. The attendance included a live streamed audience through Periscope and 180 people who attended in person.

**Haiti: Beyond Commemorations and Boundaries**
*Primary sponsor: Romance Languages and Literatures*

This joint conference explored the field of Haitian studies through multiple approaches that go beyond geographical and linguistic boundaries as well as the chronological limitations of a century. Presentations showcased ongoing debates among philosophers, historians, musicologists, and literary scholars, and facilitated face-to-face conversations between literary specialists focused on French and Francophone studies. During the conference, scholars and graduate students rigorously investigated and went beyond some of the common tropes in Haitian studies thanks to a series of panels looking at Haitian studies in an interdisciplinary fashion.

**Crossing the Vertical Border: On the Central American Migrant Trail**
*Primary sponsors: Spanish Graduate Students Committee; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean*

This series of public events presented several opportunities to discuss both Central American migration and the pervasive violence in the northern triangle of Central America. They all explored the intersections between race, gender, and ethnicity as these categories have been reshaped by the Central American migrants’ trail, through the so-called “vertical border” of the Mexican state, on their way to the United States. The events included an ongoing photographic exhibition—titled “On the Trail/Homeless Dream”—on display at the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. The opening reception for the exhibition was shortly thereafter followed by two conversations with both journalist Óscar Martínez and photojournalist Edu Poncès, who authored the exhibition.
Three dynamic, award-winning poets visited campus in 2016, bringing a newsflash about what’s exciting in US Latino/a and Latin American poetry today. In February, Latino poet-scholar Urayoán Noel, who writes in English, Spanish, and a mixture of both, and translates and self-translates, gave a public reading/lecture and visited my class Poetry of the Americas. At a Caribbean poetry reading in April, Cuban poet Marcelo Morales read his poems in tandem with Puerto Rican poet Aurea María Sotomayor. Both Morales and Sotomayor write in Spanish.

These special events occasioned vibrant interchanges among faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and the public. The conversations that ensued spotlighted the fact that poetry is a thriving part of today’s debates not only about aesthetic form, but also about decolonization, neoliberalism, and neo-imperialism; changing demographics in the US; the advantages and drawbacks of thinking in hemispheric terms; and the politics of bilingualism, code mixing, and the use of digital technology. Students profited from conversing with Noel, Morales, and Sotomayor, and from listening to them read from their work. Many commented that they were inspired by the poets’ abundant vigor, their linguistic inventiveness, the complex themes they tackle, and their openness in discussing the writing process.

Noel, an associate professor at New York University, read from his award-winning new book, *Buzzing Hemispheres* (2015). He discussed his recent practice of digital *flanerie*, where he wanders through urban spaces and records improvised rhymes on video. His energetic presentation combined performance poetry with an academic lecture, delivered to a standing-room-only audience. It featured recitation, video clips, analysis of his own writing process, and an account of Latino/a poetics—demonstrating that there need be no schism between scholarship and creative work.

Morales’s visit was exceptional since he lives in Cuba and has rarely visited the United States. He spoke about his experiences coming of age during the island’s “Special Period” of post-Soviet economic crisis and being mentored by Reina María Rodríguez at her renowned *azotea* (rooftop literary salon in Havana). Morales read work from several of his books. His animated reading of a long poem from *Materia* (winner of the 2008 Julián del Casal Prize) was received especially enthusiastically. (NB: his poetry is superbly translated into English by Kristin Dykstra.)

Sotomayor, professor at the University of Pittsburgh, visited at the invitation of Agnes Lugo-Ortiz (Romance Languages and Literatures), who introduced her. Sotomayor gave an overview of her life’s work, reading a sampling of early, middle, and recent poems. She was one of the most prolific poets of the 1970s literary scene in Puerto Rico and cofounded journals of postmodern theory including *Postdata*, *Nómada*, and *Hotel Abismo*. She has also translated Derek Walcott’s poetry into Spanish. She and Morales took questions from the audience and held a lively conversation about Caribbean poetics.

An exciting result of the cosponsorship by CLAS, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, the Urban Network, and the Program in Poetry and Poetics was that these events drew audiences with diverse interests—ranging from poetics and creative writing to Latin American Studies, history, politics, translation, and linguistics. Poetry clearly has an appeal that promotes cross-disciplinary exchange. Noel, Morales, and Sotomayor showed that poetry not only exists on the page, but is also a live, embodied, political art that draws together disparate communities and ignites engagement.
Edward Larocque Tinker, founder of the Tinker Foundation, believed that one way to foster better relationships throughout the Americas was through the sharing of knowledge across borders, and it was in this spirit that the Tinker Visiting Professorship program was created. Since receiving a Tinker endowment in 1981, CLAS has hosted 115 Tinker Visiting Professors, who have collectively spent more than 3,000 hours sharing their knowledge with UChicago students.

Here we profile our cohort of 2015–16 Tinker Visiting Professors and announce our incoming Tinker Visiting Professors for 2016–17.

Keila Grinberg, from the Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, was hosted by the Department of History. Grinberg’s 2002 book, *A Guarantor for All Brazilians: Citizenship, Slavery and Civil Law in the Time of Antonio Pereira Rebouças*, is a pioneering study of the ways in which slavery and racial thought shaped law and liberalism in the decades following Brazilian independence in 1822. She has authored, coauthored, or edited 10 books and dozens of articles, in both Portuguese and English.

During her two-quarter residency, Grinberg taught Slavery and Freedom in South America (Autumn) and Public History and the Memory of Slavery in Brazil and the United States (Winter). About her Winter course, Grinberg noted, “In part because of the enthusiastic engagement of the students, which often led to passionate discussions, this course was certainly one of the most successful of my career.” Grinberg also presented two public lectures for CLAS, participated in a panel discussion on Brazilian slavery at Malcolm X College, and co-organized the “Frontiers of Slavery and Freedom in the 19th Century Lusophone World” symposium, in addition to giving a number of talks outside of Chicago and outside of academia.

Diego Pol is a researcher with CONICET at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, located in Trelew, Chubut, Argentina. Pol is a distinguished vertebrate paleontologist who has made seminal contributions in the areas of theoretical systematics and biogeography and the evolutionary history of Mesozoic reptiles. He has also made many important fossil discoveries during field expeditions across Patagonia and on other continents.

During Winter 2016, Pol was hosted by the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy and taught the course Morphology in Time and Space. Pol gave talks in the Committee on Evolutionary Biology’s EvMorph Seminar, the PaleoClub, and at CLAS. Pol reflected, “A central outcome of my stay at the University of Chicago is the monographic publication we are developing in collaboration with [faculty sponsor] Dr. Paul Sereno. This collaborative research will be of paramount importance for understanding the diversity and evolution of crocodiles during the Cretaceous in the Southern Hemisphere. … My collaboration with Dr. Sereno was extremely fruitful, and we have also established future lines of collaboration. We are currently planning Sereno’s visit to my home institution.”

Anna Caballé is the founder and director of the Unidad de Estudios Biográficos of the Universitat de Barcelona. She specializes in the genre of biography, particularly women’s biography and autobiography. She has published nine major books (two of which were awarded prestigious Spanish prizes), countless specialized book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, book reviews, and essays, and has been chief editor of various special issues of major journals in the Spanish-speaking world.

Caballé was hosted by the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and offered the Spring 2016 course Ética, género, y biografía en literatura hispanohablante. Student evaluations of the course were enthusiastic: “Profesora Caballé was simply incredible! I really didn’t think I would be that interested in biographies when I signed up for the course, but now, I find it fascinating. Caballé raised really interesting topics of discussion regarding the discipline, and I definitely feel like this course has taught me something new.” In addition, the Instituto Cervantes hosted Caballé at events in Cambridge (Harvard) and Chicago; she participated in conversations on “Hispanismos en Primera Persona,” which considered a series of autobiographical essays by some of America’s leading Hispanists.
Faculty Publications

Michael Albertus
Political Science


Laura Gandolfi
Romance Languages & Literatures


Stephen Palmié
Anthropology

“The Cuban Factors of Humanity/Los factores cubanos de la humanidad,” Anthropological Theory 16: 3–21

James Robinson
Harris School of Public Policy


Mario Santana
Romance Languages & Literatures


Victoria Saramago
Romance Languages & Literatures

“Ecos de piedras y ecos de palabras: los espacios de Pedro Páramo,” Pedro Páramo: 60 años, Víctor Jiménez, ed. (Fundación Juan Rulfo, RM, 2015)

Salomé Aguilera Skvirsky
Cinema & Media Studies

“Las cargas de la representación: Notas sobre la raza y la representación en el cine latinoamericano,” Vademécum del cine iberoamericano: Métodos y teorías, Hispanífilas 177, spring 2016

Mauricio Tenorio
History

Maldita lengua
La Huerta Grande (2016)
Enriching Research at the Regenstein Library
Rogério de Souza Farias
CLAS Associate

"Crescat scientia, vita excolatur." Or: “Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched.” These words are inscribed at the bottom of the massive reinforced concrete façade in the south entrance of the Joseph Regenstein building, the University of Chicago’s main library of the network of six.

In July 2013, when I entered the building for the first time, I had few expectations. It would be odd to think that an institution far away from South America could provide more than a superficial bibliography on my arcane subject. I would be repeatedly surprised in the next years. The Library became my second home in Chicago.

My research theme was (and still is) diplomats as a social group. Particularly in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, they shaped political decisions, cultural trends, modernization projects, and the idea of nationhood. In a period with low geographical mobility, they were the ones who learned and diffused information about other cultures, exchanged information between governments and intellectuals, and mediated conflicts. The literature is already broad in terms of what they did, but few scholars questioned who they were and how their identity as individuals and as members of a specific group of intellectuals and bureaucrats shaped their actions in Portugal and Brazil—the focus of my research.

Before delving into private letters and official documents, I needed to know their social and family backgrounds, how they were recruited, their career paths, and their interactions with key actors in society and government.

My first discovery at the Regenstein was a 1913 volume with information on all Portuguese and Brazilian diplomatic representatives from 1808 to 1912. This rare book is extremely hard to find even in Brazil. After gathering the names and creating a database, I started to research each name from the early nineteenth century.

I was surprised by the wealth of specific references the Library could offer me. The first were general genealogical and biographical databases. Ancestry.com, in particular, provided me with wills, census data, and birth, marriage, and death certificates. The second group was printed sources. I perused Dicionário Biobibliográfico Luso-Brasileiro, Mordomia-Mor da Casa Real: foros e ofícios, 1755–1910 and Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira. The final step was looking for secondary sources on specific individuals. The wealth of references was amazing, but I could not find some obscure articles. It was at this stage that I contacted Sarah G. Wenzel, the University’s Bibliographer for Literatures of Europe and the Americas. She is a remarkable and efficient professional, and after a few days she found everything I needed.

Diplomats lived in close-knit communities of expatriates until the early twentieth century. From their private letters and official documents we realize that much of their learning came from foreign colleagues. Portuguese and Brazilian diplomats, therefore, strived to emulate their French, Spanish, English, and Austrian peers as a strategy to enhance Portuguese and Brazilian standing in the “civilized” concert of nations. I am currently investigating this process, which seems to be fraught with contradictions, tensions, and adaptations as both Brazil and Portugal lacked the material resources of the great powers.

The Regenstein Library remains my second home in this quest, and every time I enter its building I never fail to repeat—“Let knowledge grow from more to more.”
Students

Studying Nahua Murals in Mexican Monasteries
Savannah Esquivel, PhD Candidate, Art History

Tepeapulco, Mexico. Mid-sixteenth century. The Franciscan monastery is awash in activity. Friars bustle between buttresses, buried in tomes. Indigenous Nahua artists paint tantalizing murals of biblical scenes. In the cloister, Bernadino de Sahagún, the famous missionary-ethnographer, works with Nahua scholars to compose and illustrate the Primeros Memoriales, a bilingual Nahuatl-Spanish manuscript documenting the culture, religion, and history of pre-Hispanic Mexico.

My dissertation focuses on the murals painted by Nahua artists at monasteries like Tepeapulco and asks how artists used prints and books from Europe to formulate a novel mode of painting in the sixteenth century. As an art historian, much of the discovery comes during close, painstaking inspection of these paintings. Many of the mural programs in Mexican monasteries are undocumented, and their state of conservation might create puzzles that can be solved only by firsthand study. After nine months of research in Mexico, supported by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship, I had studied murals at more than 50 monasteries. I looked forward to fieldwork at Tepeapulco and to comparing the data I had collected with the paintings at this influential monastery.

I tell colleagues that research in Mexico is an adventure and that a smile is the best way to combat the frustration and fatigue that come with fieldwork. My experience in Tepeapulco tested that theory. When I arrived in Tepeapulco, I had already worked at two nearby monasteries earlier in the day. I was tired but kept a close eye on my watch because I had just enough time to photograph and collect data at this final site. Visiting hours are rarely posted at the monasteries, and site caretakers have their own schedules. I had even been locked inside a monastery because the siesta was observed 30 minutes early! And, because travel to remote pueblos can take hours, it often makes the most sense to tackle multiple nearby sites in a single day. I arrived at the site and immediately started photographing and taking notes. I saw my husband, who had been my patient companion that day, studying a mural in another section of the monastery.

“Oh, that must be the very famous painting of The Mass of St. Gregory!,” I thought. Images of this painting are reproduced throughout the literature on the art of Mexico, so I hurried into the cloister to study it with my own eyes. And then I saw it. Well, actually I didn’t because opaque white paper covered every single mural in the monastery. Unbeknownst to me, officials had recently commenced a project to restore the paintings. The murals would be hidden from view for the next year.

In many ways, fieldwork can be one step forward and two steps backward. One rarely encounters what one originally expected, and that can frustrate any researcher. At the same time, experiences like this always provide a great deal of perspective that allows you to tell the story of the past with greater nuance. While it can be easy to overlook the conditions of the present when doing research, adventures like mine in Tepeapulco remind us that the materials we study are living entities flourishing in a community of people, and that story is just as important to tell.

The Brazilian state of Rondônia provides a stark lesson in the perils of “progress.” Fifty years ago, tropical forest covered almost the whole state, and the population was overwhelmingly indigenous. Today, however, close to half of Rondônia’s forest cover has been lost, and indigenous people represent a tiny fraction of the state’s population; according to the 2010 governmental census, there were just 13,076 indígenas out of 1.5 million. That’s less than 1%.

Brazil’s Fundação Nacional do Índio (National Indian Foundation) is charged with protecting and serving the nation’s indigenous peoples, and many of Rondônia’s native residents now live on federally demarcated reserves. Since the summer of 2013, I have spent approximately six months conducting research on one reserve, the Terra Indígena Rio Branco (TIRB). When European ethnographers Emil Heinrich Snethlage and Franz Caspar visited the Rio Branco region (in the 1930s and 1940s, respectively), they found a host of indigenous groups living close to one another and engaging in cultural and linguistic exchange: Arikápú, Makurap, Tupári, Djeoromítxi, Aruá, Kanoē. There are members of all of these ethnic groups on the TIRB today, but their daily life has changed dramatically. Western diseases (in particular, measles) decimated the local population in the early
1950s, and severe exploitation at the hands of nonindigenous ranchers and rubber merchants dispersed formerly concentrated communities.

Of all the ethnicities represented on the TIRB, only the Tupari continue to use their language as the means of everyday communication and to teach it to their children. The other groups now use Portuguese, either principally or exclusively. The precise sociolinguistic situation varies from village to village, and many members of the ethnic Tupari population also prefer to communicate in Portuguese. But in a core set of villages—the largest being Trindade, Bom Jesus, Serrinha, Colorado, and Nazaré—language use and transmission remain strong. These are the villages where I conduct my research.

The objective of my field research is to document, describe, and analyze the Tupari language to the fullest extent possible. Previous research on Tupari has been superficial and cursory; we still do not have a complete sketch (or even a moderately extensive sketch) of its grammar. For my dissertation, I am focusing on producing as accurate and detailed grammatical description as possible. This project has a community-centered component as well: I have been working with the TIRB’s indigenous schoolteachers (in particular, my dear friends Geovane Kamarom Tupari, Isaias Tarimã Tupari, and Raul Pat’awre Tupari) to create new native language pedagogical materials for the local schools. With the support of the Endangered Language Fund, we developed and printed a new Tupari literacy workbook that is now being used throughout the TIRB.

Needless to say, none of this work would have been possible if not for the generous financial and logistical support offered by CLAS. A Tinker Field Research Grant made my first trip to the TIRB a reality, and I am deeply grateful to everyone at CLAS for their friendship and collegiality as this project has taken shape.

In my dissertation research, I follow two classes of community interventions—one international aid agency, and one collaboration between the United Nations Refugee Agency and the Catholic Church—in order to gain insight into the following themes: (1) the logics, politics, and practices of community interventions from the perspective of a religious social organization and an international aid agency; (2) the differential ways in which communities receive these interventions, including the changes to gender-based political relations affected by the inflow of resources, intervening teams, and, eventually, their withdrawal; and (3) the differential relational and political changes resulting from the community-intervention encounter in both indigenous and nonindigenous communities.

The amount of relationship and trust building required to conduct this sort of fieldwork simply cannot be overstated when working in a region both deeply affected by the half-century of armed conflict and facing new, emerging organized crime threats. After a year spending time with these communities, I am only now beginning to gain the confidence of some of their inhabitants—understandably so, given their histories of colonization, exploitation, and victimization. The sense of responsibility as a researcher in such contexts is significant, and I hope my work will contribute directly to both our theoretical understanding of life in transition under situations of extreme socioeconomic precarity and, practically, to the development of public policy that supports, rather than revictimizes, communities of individuals affected by conflict violence. The level of in-depth ethnographic work necessary to achieve these dual goals would have been impossible without the generous combined support from the Department of Comparative Human Development, the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, and the Center for Latin American Studies. My greatest learning as a human and a scholar has occurred in those moments jostling along unpaved roads to the market on a Saturday afternoon with community residents, or in the quiet hours of the still-dark morning with only the sound of intermittent rooster calls and 1950s ballads on the radio mixing with the crackling of the wood announcing the beginning of food preparation for the day. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to arrive at these places, and share learning about life in the wake of war with the generous souls I have met along the way.

Researching Post-Conflict Reconciliation Interventions in Caquetá, Colombia
Erin McFee, PhD Candidate, Comparative Human Development

Negotiators in Havana ready their pens to sign a peace accord that will formally end over a half-century of internal conflict in Colombia, which has left over 7 million people—more than 15% of the population—displaced by violence. Meanwhile, the international community promises technical and financial support in the billions for a post-accord society. Many peace-building initiatives currently address the question of socioeconomic rebuilding through the mechanism of community-based reconciliation. These approaches, to varying degrees, consider the needs of specific communities and involve community leaders in the diffusion of technical and material supports intended to alleviate the negative effects of the armed conflict. However, programs such as those active in my field site of Caquetá tend to eschew the differential needs of indigenous communities and often fail to account for the gendered experiences of war and transition.
2015–2016 GRADUATES

BA MAJOR IN LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Ana Gonzalez  Latin American Studies with honors; Sociology with honors
“‘The President’s Son and the Coach’s Son’: The Effects of School Preferences on Educational Stratification in Mexico City’s West”

Ander Iruretagoyena  Latin American Studies with honors; Economics
“A Spectrum of Violence: The Sinaloa Cartel, the Knights Templar Cartel, and the Zetas”

James McDonough  Latin American Studies with honors
“A Delicate Balance: Inter-American Containment and Diplomacy in the Early 1960s”

Patricia Fernandez Piñeros  Latin American Studies
“Beyond the Individual: Shifting Our Understanding of the Health of Latinos with Diabetes”

Cristina Schaver  Latin American Studies with honors; International Studies with honors
“A Vertical Border”

Adaline Torres  Latin American Studies with honors; History with honors; International Studies with honors
“Co-optation to Democratization: Mexican Civil Society before and after the 1985 Mexico City Earthquakes”

BA MINOR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Michael Goodyear  Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations with honors; History with honors

Maya Handa  Public Policy Studies with honors

Tianjian Lai  Sociology with honors

Lauraly Laurent  East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Rebecca-Lily Michell  Sociology with honors

Kirsten Wiard-Bauer  Mathematics; Economics

PhD

Adela Amaral  Anthropology
“The Archaeology of a Maroon Reducción: Colonial Beginnings to Present Day Ruination”

Adrian Anagnost  Art History
“Contested Spaces: Art and Urbanism in Brazil, 1928–1969”

María Balandrán-Castillo  History

Juan José Bueno Holle  Linguistics
“Information Structure in Isthmus Zapotec”

Lee Cabatingan  Anthropology
“Constructing a Jurisdiction, Creating a Sovereign Caribbean: Constitutional Moments at the Caribbean Court of Justice”

Sabine Cadeau  History

Genevieve Dempsey  Music
“The Sacred Sound of Congado: Performing Songs of Devotion, Race, and Gender in Afro-Brazilian Religious Communities”

Lauren Eldridge  Music
“Playing Haitian: Musical Negotiations of Nation, Genre, and Self”

Cesar Daniel Fávila  Music
“Music and Devotion in Novohispanic Convents, 1600–1800”

Lourdes Fernández Bencosme  Romance Languages & Literatures
“Los mundos aurales de la cultural juvenil en la literatura hispanoamericana”

José Antonio Hernández Company  Political Science
“The Legacies of Authoritarianism: Party Origins and the Development of Programmatic Capacity in Mexico”

Gregory Duff Morton  Anthropology; Sol Tax Prize
“Leaving Labor: Reverse Migration, Welfare Cash, and the Specter of the Commodity in Northeastern Brazil”

Tessa Murphy  History
“The Creole Archipelago: Colonization, Experimentation, and Community in the Southern Caribbean, c.1700–1796”

Joseph Jay Sosa  Anthropology
“Homophobia is a Crime! An Ethnography of a Political Demand”

Lillian Wohl  Music
“The Musical Labors of Memory: Jewish Musical Performance in Buenos Aires”

MA

Rachel Carbonara  Divinity School

Patrick Dyer  Latin American and Caribbean Studies
“Brazil at the 1893 Colombian Exposition: A Diplomatic, Nationalistic, and Commercial Mission of a Republic on the Verge of Collapse”

Maria Francisca Sandoval  Latin American and Caribbean Studies
“Que Gane el Menos Peor: Determinants of Vote Choice in Mexican Presidential Elections and the Negative Implications for Mexico’s Nascent Democracy”

Cassidy Welter  Divinity School
I became interested in conducting anthropological research after taking a course cross-listed under Latin American Studies called Human Rights and Development in Latin America last spring. Upon receiving a Metcalf Award to work for a Peruvian nonprofit providing advocacy and support for tuberculosis patients in Lima and Callao, I decided to use the interests I’d developed in the course to design an ethnographic project I could work on alongside my internship. My position at the nonprofit brought me in contact with tuberculosis patients, community health workers, nurses, doctors, NGO workers, activists, and government officials, and I was able to interview a large swath of these “stakeholders,” as they are called, about the ways in which they had shaped and been shaped by Peru’s National Program for the Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis. These interviews, along with immersive observation, culminated in a short paper examining the instrument-effects of a particular component of the program, a Canadian-funded intervention designed to improve tuberculosis patients’ adherence to treatment by tracking their fingerprints.

While the initial research phase took only about three months, the process of turning that research into an actual paper lasted about four. CLAS-affiliated faculty, staff, and students supported this project from its inception to its ongoing form. The call-for-papers for the two graduate conferences I participated in were advertised in the weekly CLAS email. Professor Sean Brotherton (Anthropology) sponsored the Institutional Review Board application for the project and supervised my

Deciding to present at conferences was a way to motivate myself to convert all of the data I had collected into cogent, intelligible arguments. It was also an effort to make meaning of all of the experiences that had been shared with me while I worked in Lima and Callao. Inspired by the Latin American Studies workshops and guest speaker events hosted by CLAS where constructive criticism and intellectual collaboration reshaped and fleshed out already powerful work, I too wanted similar feedback. My conference experiences, while limited, made me aware of the generosity of other graduate students and professors in the field of LACS and how welcoming and enthusiastic they can be, regardless of whether one is an undergraduate. Keeping an eye out for calls-for-papers/abstracts and actively seeking funding opportunities from the University to travel, even if they aren’t specifically for research, can really help get one’s feet wet with actual social science research.

Vistas, CLAS’s student photography exhibition, highlights the importance of the CLAS undergraduate and graduate student experience across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Kelly Keough (BA major, Latin American and Caribbean Studies) won Best in Show in the 2015 Vistas competition with Cementerio de trenes (Uyuni, Bolivia). Keough was in Bolivia to conduct research for her BA thesis on the history of indigenous political symbolism in Bolivia.
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In an effort to connect to alumni and to provide current students with career guidance, CLAS has launched an alumni career webinar series. Together with our partners (University of Wisconsin-Madison, UW-Milwaukee) in the Upper Midwest Latin American Studies Initiative, we have planned an ongoing series, supported by Title VI National Resource Center funds, that is dedicated to bringing awareness to area studies and foreign language career paths. This series will address the perpetual student question “how will this degree translate to a job?” and reflect on the skills and knowledge that students gain that serve them throughout their careers. CLAS plans to conduct at least one alumni career webinar each year, in addition to sharing the webinars produced by our partners.

Our inaugural webinar guest was Alaina Harkness (MPP/LACS AM’06), a fellow in the Centennial Scholar Initiative at the Brookings Institution and former senior program officer at the MacArthur Foundation. She is currently part of the team that seeks to develop and catalyze transformative solutions to the hard economic, social, and environmental challenges facing cities across the world. The goal is to inform and propel new patterns of urban growth, new forms of urban finance, and new norms of urban governance that are concrete, imaginative, integrated, and, ultimately, transferable.

Following are excerpts from our informal conversation.

In your opinion, what did you gain from your Latin American program experience that has been an asset to you in your different positions?

AH: The interdisciplinary problem … is something that always fascinated me and was also a perfect thing to delve into here at the Latin American Studies program, because you’re in this cohort with people who speak different disciplinary languages than you and are interested in coming at similar problems but with different tool sets and different vocabularies. I think it was such good practice … to sit in seminars to try to talk to each other about bringing our different perspectives to bear on the same problems. … It’s something I draw on all the time. I have to be able to make complex concepts understood to people with a very diverse range of backgrounds and different technical skill sets, and that’s part of my job.

Tell us what you’re doing now. What parts of your job do you find most challenging, and what do you find most stimulating?

AH: I’ve just taken a leave of absence from the MacArthur Foundation, where I’ve worked for over six years. Before that I was at the Chicago Community Trust for about three and a half years. So I have about a decade of experience in philanthropy and supporting urban development projects as a grant maker. … Working as a grant maker is a lot about doing research on problem definition, trying to scope out what would be an appropriate solution set to start to address that problem, and then finding the best people and experts that are working on those issues and motivating them, or connecting them to the resources, to do that work better. It ends up being a field, at least where I was sitting at the MacArthur Foundation, that’s a lot about research, a lot about policy, and a lot about connecting research and policy to practice. I say that as a segue as I’ve now stepped into this role as a fellow at the Brookings Institution, also working on urban government issues, also working on urban policies and trying to help cities become healthier, more livable places. But I am doing it more as a researcher myself, so I’m connecting with a lot of other experts, but I’m also in a much more active research and writing mode. … The work is similar in that we’re still trying to convene the best thinkers on particular ideas or emerging policies that we think might be promising and we’re trying to get those ideas out into the real world. It has a similar flow and feel to foundation work, but it is definitely a different perch.

In what ways do you think your Latin American Studies program and training will connect to your future career endeavors?

AH: In addition to all the foundational things that I expect will continue to be really important to me—understanding networks, being able to be an effective trans- and interdisciplinary interlocutor—I really hope to be able to deepen my exposure and interaction with cities in Latin America. It’s something that I’ve been able to do in a satisfying way over the last couple of years, because Latin America has played host to a couple of big urban development conferences. … I’ve had a chance to continue engaging in Latin America. … It’s a place where urbanization continues, the equity challenges are profound, and where the intersection of cities and the environment is very clear and important, and that’s something that combines two of my great loves in life. It’s a place where I hope I’ll be able to work in more depth in the future.

Note: Anyone may register for the live webinars; audio and/or video will then be available on the CLAS website. Please visit the CLAS website for the full audio interview with Alaina Harkness.
Work for my thesis took an unexpected turn in January when a state of emergency was declared in Flint, Michigan. The “Flint Water Crisis” resulted from the contamination of the water supply after a state-appointed emergency manager ordered the city to transfer to a new water source. However, this transfer lacked proper oversight and resulted in the corrosion of the city infrastructure and the exposure of Flint residents to lead, a known neurotoxin.

The contamination has required local, state, and federal actors to mobilize in an effort to mitigate the damages caused by lead exposure. Despite these efforts, the Latino population of Flint, particularly undocumented members of the community, has been largely overlooked. The majority of the undocumented population in Flint hails from Mexico and Central America. Therefore, undocumented individuals were late to learn about water contamination because information in Spanish was not provided in a timely manner. Additionally, amid rumors of immigration raids, many undocumented individuals were afraid to speak with the uniformed members of the Michigan National Guard who were deployed door-to-door to deliver information and supplies to city residents. Undocumented individuals were also initially unable to access water and other resources at water distribution centers, since many required state-issued identification. These factors have placed a disproportionate burden on the Latino community of Flint and contributed to their prolonged lead exposure.

As a former employee of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, one of the state agencies responsible for public health oversight and response efforts, I wanted to develop a more nuanced understanding of the experiences of the Latino community throughout the Flint Water Crisis. I thought an ethnographic study of the crisis would help develop understandings of environmental hazards faced within new and growing Latino communities across the country as well as identify ways to better accommodate these communities within disaster response efforts.

In order to conduct this research, I sought a summer internship with the Genesee County Hispanic/Latino Collaborative, a new nonprofit based in Flint that has become the leader of Latino advocacy efforts. To fund the internship, I am fortunate to have received a “Pitch” Internship through UChicagoGRAD and the Institute of Politics. While the internship will provide an important ethnographic context for my thesis, it also offers a rare opportunity to give back to the community I am working with through a unique fusion of activism and academia. Accordingly, throughout the summer I worked to identify and advocate for resources and supports, especially medical care, needed within Flint’s Latino community. I am also excited that I will have the opportunity to assist in the community’s efforts to develop the Collaborative, which will ensure a continued voice for the Latino community in Flint.

During the 2015–16 academic year, the Katz Center for Mexican Studies organized 14 Mexican Studies seminars, one major international conference, and numerous other events in collaboration with other organizations within and beyond the University.

The Katz Center launched the “Cátedra Internacional Friedrich Katz,” an annual academic meeting devoted to the exploration of the diverse themes that defined the historical scholarship of Friedrich Katz, as well as the international experiences that shaped his life during the twentieth century.

The Cátedra is a joint endeavor by six institutions: the University of Chicago, El Colegio de México, CIESAS, the Free University of Berlin, the University of Vienna, and Columbia University. It will be held annually on a rotating basis among Chicago, Mexico City, Berlin, Vienna, and New York. El Colegio de México and CIESAS will host the next Cátedra gathering on October 20, 2016. Please visit the Katz Center website (mexicanstudies.uchicago.edu) for details.
LOOKING AHEAD

CLAS brings together faculty and students across the University in interdisciplinary and interdivisional research, teaching, and scholarly events related to this vital region of the world. Our goal is to cement Chicago’s reputation as a vital crossroads where the most dynamic Latin American thinkers can engage in meaningful collaboration and exchange with colleagues from across the University and around the world. As we prepare for the 2016–17 academic year, we look forward to welcoming new faculty, students, and visitors to our community.

MA Cohort

We will welcome six new students to the LACS MA program in the Autumn, and our postdoctoral lecturer, Pablo Palomino, will once again lead them through the MA Proseminar and guide them in their thesis research and writing. This year’s cohort has a diverse array of interests and country foci, including modernism in visual arts and song in Mexico and Cuba; the formation of workers’ political identities and their relationships with state structures and authoritarianism in the mid to late twentieth-century Andes; relationships between indigenous groups and their environment as represented in colonial texts in Amazonia; democratization, violence, and the government in Mexico; race relations and gender in Haiti and the Caribbean; and the early years of the Cold War (1950s and 1960s) in Central America.

New Faculty & Postdoctoral Scholars

Chris Blattman, Oeindrila Dube, Austin L. Wright, and Luis Martinez are all incoming faculty affiliates of the new Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the Harris School of Public Policy. Blattman focuses on ways to reduce poverty and violence in developing countries; Dube is a scholar of the political economy of conflict and development; both work in Africa and Latin America; Wright studies the political economy of conflict and crime, with a focus on Colombia; and Martinez works on political economy, development economics, and public finances, also focused on Colombia. Leonardo Bursztyn (Economics) works on political economy, development economics, and labor economics; and has a forthcoming article on “Poverty and the Political Economy of Public Education Spending: Evidence from Brazil” in the Journal of the European Economic Association. Yanilda María González (School of Social Service Administration) explores the consequences of violence and inequality for state capacity, democratic citizenship, and the relationship between citizens and state institutions in the Latin American context. Jessica Swanston Baker (Music) studies popular music of the Eastern Caribbean, tempo, and the intersections of cognitive and ethical perceptions of fastness. Mareike Winchell (Anthropology) focuses on questions of indigeneity and governance, intimacy and exchange, materiality and mediation, and how histories of agrarian servitude have shaped the terms of citizenship and political inclusion in the present.

Stuart McManus (Postdoctoral Fellow, Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge) is a historian of global empire with a particular focus on Latin America and Iberian Asia. Danielle Roper (Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar, Romance Languages and Literatures) writes on the concept of “hemispheric blackface” to examine the role of parodic performance in upholding or countering discourses of racial democracy, mestizaje, and nonracialism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Fidel Tavárez (Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar, History) works on the intellectual, cultural, and administrative history of the Spanish Empire, with a particular focus on the eighteenth-century Bourbon Reforms.

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