

LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Message from the Director



The LARC is a multi-sector forum for research and dialogue, whose mission is to help the University lift up its eyes, broaden its horizons, and see farther. Over the past year, we've continued to work toward these

goals by welcoming international and local visitors, hosting innovative events, and strengthening partnerships. Latin Americans are asking many of the same questions we are in Canada. Our job at the LARC is to help us work together toward answering them.

In this sense, we are committed to the Faculty of Arts' goals of engaging, inspiring and discovering. Our activities engage large numbers of people on issues of both local and global relevance. This year the film series, an audience favourite, showcased award-winning contemporary cinema from Brazil and Chile, along with special screenings from Guatemala and Mexico. Our Dialogues Series facilitated conversation on decolonization and ways of knowing, linking Indigenous perspectives north and south. We

have hosted events with a broad range of university partners and welcomed graduate student residents from across campus, along with visitors from around the world. Our publications also reflect our broad interests and horizons, on issues ranging from politics in Mexico and Brazil, to wine in Argentina, to oil extraction in Ecuador.

As we continue to grow this upcoming year, we will connect across borders, disciplines, cultures and sectors. We will continue to collaborate with the Calgary Public Library on initiatives in the new Central Library building, opening in November 2018. We are also undertaking new multi-disciplinary projects spanning the continent on resource governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The LARC has deep roots at the University, and continues to grow through support from the Faculty of Arts, its Fellows and Executive Committee, its Advisory Board, and its strong community of stakeholders. This foundation, breadth and diversity are our strengths.

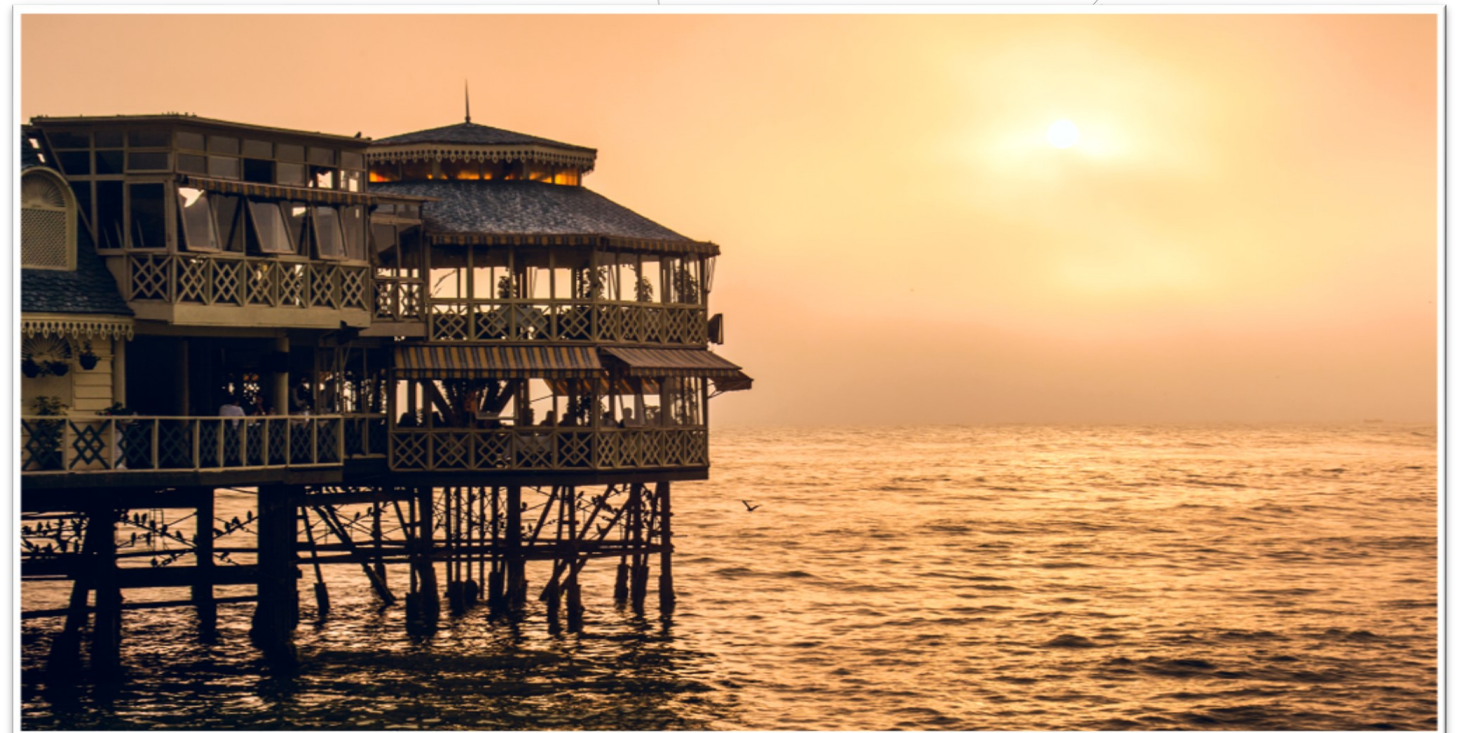
Engage with us. We want to hear from you.

Pablo Policzer
Director

Latin American Research Centre *our core values*

Mission

LARC helps the University lift up its eyes, broaden its horizons, and see farther. It provides a multi-disciplinary forum for students and scholars across the Americas to develop and engage in rigorous research related to the region. Through academic and community activities, the Centre is also an accessible source of dialogue and information for the general public on a broad range of issues of contemporary relevance for Latin America and beyond.



*Connect with the
LARC and expand
your horizons.*

Vision

In a globally connected world, where Latin Americans are asking many of the same questions everyone else is, we envision the LARC as a link between people and ideas across boundaries and disciplines. That requires broadening the scope of what constitutes area studies: research not just on but also in the region, and beyond its traditional constituencies in the humanities and social sciences.

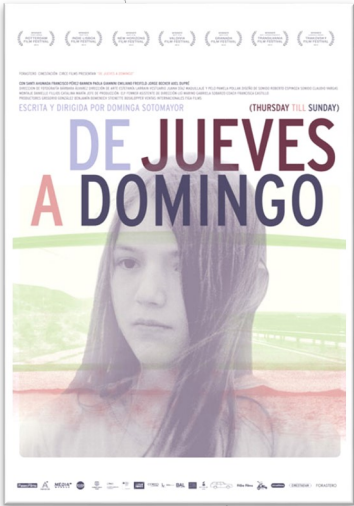
Events

325 attended the Film Series



over 1060 people attended LARC's events

The well-established **Film Series** has been a LARC favourite for many years. The Series features award-winning contemporary Latin American cinema that showcases the cultural diversity and artistry of the region. The Centre works closely with community organizations, Consulates, and Embassies to obtain cutting-edge films, as well as with experts to lead discussions following each screening.



Brazil Film Series, with support from the Consulate of Brazil in Vancouver and the Brazilian Community Association of Alberta

Que horas ela volta by Anna Muylaert
September 28, 2017.

O som ao redor by Kleber Mendonça Filho
October 26, 2017.

Besouro by João Daniel Tikhomirof
November 30, 2017.

Chile Film Series, with support from the Consulate of Chile in Vancouver

La jubilada by Jairo Boisier
January 25, 2018.

No by Pablo Larraín
February 22, 2018.

De jueves a domingo by Dominga Sotomayor Castillo
March 29, 2018.

Special Film Screenings, with support from the Calgary Public Library

La jaula de oro by Diego Quemada-Díez (Mexico)
October 19, 2017.

Ixcanul by Jayro Bustamante (Guatemala)
March 8, 2018.

170 attended the Dialogues Series with the Calgary Public Library

The **LARC Dialogues Series** advances discussion around global issues of contemporary significance to Latin America and beyond. The Series features not only scholars but also experts with a wide range of firsthand professional experience in order to discuss and develop solutions to global challenges. This year LARC partnered with the Calgary Public Library to hold 2 public dialogue events:

Dialogue 1. Throwing away the Lab Coat: Communicating Science across Borders
October 5, 2017

Jay Ingram and the panel of experts including Dawn Bazely, Cheryl Cardinal, Karen McPherson, and Mel Wilson explored how communicating science across fields, cultures, and borders helps us face global challenges today.



Gabriela Alonso Yañez

Werklund School of Education

This year's first LARC Dialogue, **Throwing away the Lab Coat**, was possible thanks to the support and leadership of Werklund School of Education assistant professor and LARC Fellow **Gabriela Alonso Yañez** and the **Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)**. Gabriela's research focuses on understanding the factors and conditions that influence how teams produce integrated, action-oriented socioecological knowledge in a rapidly changing world. Recently, her research has been supported by the IAI, aiming to improve the dynamics of scientific research teams to effectively produce science for policy. Over the last 10 years, she has participated in several collaborative research projects with multiple aims: to build researchers' and organizations' capacity for collaboration; to engage stakeholders in co-designing and co-producing solutions-oriented knowledge; and to aid teams to develop networks of mutual learning.





Dialogue 2. Decolonization and Ways of Knowing

March 14, 2018

As part of its **Dialogues Series**, LARC hosted **Brian Calliou** (The Banff Centre), **Larissa Lai** (University of Calgary), and **Walter Mignolo** (Duke University) to explore the challenges of decolonization and reconciliation through a broad-ranging discussion of different ways of knowing. This dialogue was moderated by LARC Director **Pablo Policzer**, and was hosted in partnership with the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, the Department of Political Science, and the Calgary Public Library. The event opened with prayer and Territorial Acknowledgment by Traditional Knowledge Keeper **Anita Eagle Bear**.



Elizabeth Montes Garcés

*School of Languages,
Linguistics, Literatures
and Cultures*

Besides supporting the **Decolonization and Ways of Knowing Dialogue**, LARC Fellow and Executive Committee member Elizabeth Montes organized and hosted Walter Mignolo's talk on *Decoloniality and Western Modernity* as part of the **Speakers Series**. Elizabeth has been an important and active member of the LARC community and an integral bridge with the **School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Culture (SLLC)**. Her research focuses on Latin American prose fiction, Latin American women writers as well as literature and film in Latin America. She has published extensively in Canada, the United States, Europe, and Latin America.



205 attended the Speakers Series



The **Speakers Series** provides a forum for Fellows, graduate students, and local and international scholars to share their research with the academic community and general public.

William H. Beezley, Professor, University of Arizona
Malbec Matters September 21, 2017.

Victoria Simmons, PhD Candidate, Carleton University
Steel Serpents, Iron Horses, and Other Mythical Creatures in North-Central American Mobility Politics October 19, 2017.

José M. Gordillo, Department of History, University of Calgary
El delirio del absurdo December 14, 2017.

Walter Mignolo, Professor, Duke University
Decoloniality and Western Modernity March 15, 2018.

Other events 120 attended

Briefing on Colombia with the Consulate of Colombia in Calgary and the Government of Alberta

The Latin American Research Centre and the Consulate of Colombia in Calgary hosted a pre-mission briefing on Colombia in preparation for the Government of Alberta and the Federal Government's trade mission focusing on the region's energy sector. Sessions were led by experts from industry, government and academia.
September 6, 2017.


Chacmool at 50: The Past, Present, and Future of Archaeology

As part of the Chacmool conference, LARC supported a workshop of interdisciplinary scholars from Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Geography, Geomatics, and Urban Studies to develop a comparative framework for discussing pre-industrial urban commerce and its relevance to current issues in global economies.
November 8-12, 2017.

Mexico Days with University of Calgary International and the Consulate of Mexico in Calgary

The LARC collaborated with UC International and the Consulate of Mexico in Calgary to celebrate Mexican culture with a keynote address by architect **Carlos de Leo** (Universidad Iberoamericana) exploring challenges to sustainability in Mexico City, a panel discussion, a photo exhibit, as well as two film screenings.
November 15-17, 2017.

Engaging 
1060 people with our
events this year

Supporting 
4 visiting scholars from
across the Americas

Connecting 
11 graduate students from **8**
departments connected with
opportunities

**Graduate Student
Symposium
April 19, 2018
40 attended**

David Barrios Giraldo, PhD Candidate, Dept. of History *Isaacs Apotheosis. Politics of Peace and Commemoration in Colombia 1904-1905*

Adam Benfer, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Anthropology & Archaeology *The Archaeology of Pre-Hispanic Travel in the Lake Nicaragua Basin*

Alyssa Haggard, Master's Student, Dept. of Anthropology & Archaeology *An Examination of Chipped-Stone Material from the Wo' Complex at Yaxnohcah, Campeche, Mexico*

Ivo Jirasek, Master's Student, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures *One Characteristic of the National Identity in the Literature of Fiction of Two Nations: Czechs and Mexicans*

Andrés Lalama Vargas, Master's Student, Dept. of History *"Cuestión de Límites": Ecuadorian Published Sources on its Territorial Conflict with Peru*

Elizabeth Pando Burciaga, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Political Science *Creating Policy from the Bottom-Up: The Role of Municipal Governments in Chilean Immigration Policy*

Adriana Rincón Villegas, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts, Boston *On the Human Right to Peace in Times of Contemporary Colonial Power*

Victoria Simmons, PhD Candidate, Carleton University *Humanitarian Borders and the Frontiers of State-Making in Mexico*

Oscar Moisés Torres Montúfar, El Colegio de México/University of Calgary *The Interdependence of Industry: Sulphur, Innovation and Global Trade in Southern Mexico*

Ana Watson, PhD Student, Dept. of Geography *Natural Gas Extraction and Conflict in Upper Amazonia: Peru's Camisea Case*

Collaborating 
10 community groups and **9**
university groups partnered on
initiatives

**LARC is a
multi-sector forum for
research & dialogue**

Generating 
5 publications on a broad
range of topics from Argentinian
wine to Brazilian politics

**Latin American Lecture
Series with the Calgary
Association of Lifelong
Learners (CALL)
200 attended**

The LARC continued to partner with the Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners (CALL), a member-led non-profit organization whose mandate is to facilitate lifelong learning for residents of Calgary and area who are 45 years of age and older. Together, the LARC and CALL hosted a monthly lecture series on Latin American issues at the arts hub **cSpace**. This series of monthly lectures, presented by professors and graduate students in the LARC, explored various aspects of Latin American

histories, cultures and current issues. Each one-hour lecture was followed by questions and discussion.

Victoria Simmons *The Politics of Mobility in Southern Mexico* September 12, 2017.

Roberta Rice *Indigenous Rights and Resource Governance in the Andes* October 10, 2017.

Stephen Randall *Colombia: The Roots of Conflict, the Road to Peace* November 14, 2017.

Meaghan Peuramäki-Brown *Human-Environmental Interactions in an Ancient Maya Boomtown* January 16, 2018.

Luis Torres *Music and Musical Instruments from the Andean Region* February 13, 2018.

Geoff McCafferty *De-Colonizing Malintzin* March 13, 2018.

Adriana Rincón Villegas *Gender Inequality and Resistance in Latin America* April 10, 2018.

People

6 Visitors & Graduate Students in Residence

Scholars and students are an important part of the LARC community. During their term with the LARC, visiting scholars and graduate students engage in a range of activities that include contributing to publications, giving a talk on current research related to the region, and organizing events through the Centre. Many continue to collaborate with the LARC on a wide range of new and existing initiatives and contribute to activities long after their term is complete.

Graduate Students in Residence



Students in Residence Andrés Lalama Vargas and David Barrios Giraldo worked on their research at the LARC. Andrés is currently completing his M.A. in the Department of History, researching the history of mainstream Ecuadorian discourses on the border conflict with Peru, 1941-1981, under the supervision of Associate Professor of History and LARC fellow Dr. Amelia Kiddle. David is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Calgary. His doctoral research focuses on commemorations and the politics of history in Colombia between 1876 and 1936, under the supervision of Professor of History and LARC Fellow Dr. Hendrik Kraay. David's interests lie in matters of collective memory, public history, and archives.

Visiting Scholars



Rita Giacalone, Professor, Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela.

Rita has been an active Visiting Fellow at LARC, contributing to community and campus events, collaborating on projects related to economic integration in the region, and publishing on the current state of Venezuela. As an accomplished academic, she connects with students and professors alike to engage in dialogue and explore diverse research.



Maria Cristina Parra Sandoval, Professor Emerita, Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela.

As a recent Visiting Fellow, Maria Cristina has utilized the Centre's intellectual space to share her findings and reflections on the internationalization of higher education around the world as well as education policies in Latin America. She continues to network with other academics and find innovative ways to communicate her research to the academic community.



Adriana Rincón Villegas, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Adriana has fostered strong ties with the LARC over the past year through her participation in community lectures, graduate symposiums, and speaker events. Adriana's strong research interests in gender, human rights and decolonization have contributed to LARC's research, activities and initiatives.



Victoria Simmons, PhD Candidate, Carleton University, Canada.

At the LARC, Victoria has been working to complete her doctoral dissertation, which offers an historical account of migration on the railways of Southern Mexico. She has brought engaging presentations to LARC events and continues to contribute to the academic community.

32 Fellows

LARC Fellows are at the heart of the Centre, creating an important hub to exchange ideas and share their passion for research and knowledge with students, colleagues and the general public.

- Francisco Alaniz Uribe**
Environmental Design
- Alejandra Alonso Olvera**
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
- Gabriela Alonso Yañez**
Werklund School of Education
- Christon Archer (Fellow Emeritus)**
Department of History
- Eugene Beaulieu**
Department of Economics & School of Public Policy
- Nayibe Bermúdez Barrios**
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures
- Denise Fay Brown (Fellow Emerita)**
Department of Geography
- Conny Davidsen**
Department of Geography
- Shawn England**
Humanities, Mount Royal University
- José M. Gordillo**
Department of History

- Simon Granovsky-Larsen**
Politics & International Studies, University of Regina
- Rita Henderson,**
Cumming School of Medicine
- Irene Herremans**
Haskayne School of Business
- Nina Hrycak (Fellow Emerita)**
Faculty of Nursing
- Amelia M. Kiddle**
Department of History
- Candelaria Konrad (Fellow Emerita)**
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures
- Hendrik Kraay**
Department of History
- Geoffrey McCafferty**
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
- Ben McKay**
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
- Elizabeth Montes Garcés**
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures
- Meaghan Peuramäki-Brown**
Anthropology Program, Athabasca University
- Pablo Policzer**
Department of Political Science
- Greg Purdy**
Xpera
- Stephen J. Randall (Fellow Emeritus)**
Department of History
- Raj Rangayyan (Fellow Emeritus)**
Schulich School of Engineering
- Scott Raymond (Fellow Emeritus)**
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
- Alison Redford,**
Senior Researcher
- Kathryn Reese-Taylor,**
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
- Roberta Rice**
Department of Political Science
- Verónica de la Rosa Jaimes**
Cumming School of Medicine
- Luis Torres**
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures
- Harrie Vredenburg**
Haskayne School of Business

Advisory Board

The Centre receives support and strategic advice from the Advisory Board, which is composed of members of the external community, university academics and ex-officio members from the university administration.

Michael Doyle (Chair), Canpetro International Ltd

André Buret (ex-officio), Associate Vice-President Research, University of Calgary

Richard Sigurdson (ex-officio), Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary

Hendrik Kraay (ex-officio), Coordinator, Latin American Studies Program, University of Calgary

Andrea Hatzinikolas, VP Legal & Corporate, Alvo Petro Energy Ltd.

Phil Roberts, Vintri Technologies

Bill Trefanenko, Former Director, International Operations, Enbridge

Harrie Vredenburg, Professor, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary

Executive Committee

Chaired by the Director, the Executive Committee is composed of LARC fellows representing the main centres of Latin American research on campus, and advises on day-to-day operations and planning of activities.

Pablo Policzer, Director

Hendrik Kraay, Department of History & Latin American Studies

Elizabeth Montes Garcés, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures

Geoff McCafferty, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology

Luis Torr s, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures

Jos  M. Gordillo, Department of History

Ver nica de la Rosa Jaimes, Cumming School of Medicine

Ben McKay

Department of Anthropology & Archaeology

Ben will be joining the LARC Executive Committee next year. He is an Assistant Professor of Development and Sustainability in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Calgary. He received his PhD from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Netherlands, and is a Research Associate and part of the Global Secretariat of the BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS). His research interests include the politics of agrarian change in Latin America, food sovereignty alternatives, the extractive character of capitalist agricultural development, the global food system, flex crops, and the rise of emerging economies and their implications for global agrarian transformation.



Publications

The Centre regularly publishes freely accessible articles online that cover a wide range of issues and fields of contemporary significance. To encourage **relevance and knowledge translation**, articles are written by experts in the field and aimed at a general audience.



William H. Beezley
The Malbec Boom
November 2017

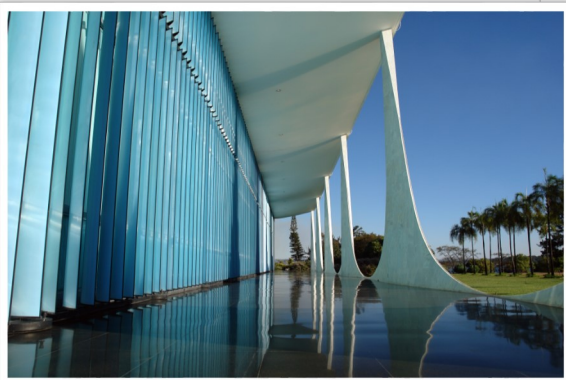


“ *Democracies are not necessarily born in spectacular fashion. The protracted Mexican democratic transition spanning almost three decades is a case in point. The same can be said about democratic deconsolidation.*

Alejandro García Magos
Mexico’s AMLO: Democratic Deconsolidation in Sight?
September 2017

“ *The success of Malbec wine demonstrates the importance of its energetic imaginative winemakers, its historical context, and its relationship to the environment. That is to say, the terroir, including the men and women and culture especially of the Mendoza region, have produced in all its variety the Malbec Boom.*

Fernanda Argolo Dantas
A Woman Out of Place: Dilma Rousseff in Veja Magazine
March 2018



“ *Although gender was not the main cause of her ousting, an analysis of Brazilian media during the impeachment proceedings reveals linguistic narratives that promoted dominant male leadership and traditional gender roles.*



Mariana Hipólito R. Mota
Lula’s Imprisonment: Good or Bad News for Democracy in Brazil?
April 2018

“ *While no one should be above the law, the law should also not be used as a political tool. The context and timing make it difficult not to conclude that Lula’s indictment is a political maneuver to keep him off the ballot in October.*



Danilo Borja and Conny Davidsen
Can the Yasuní be Protected through Public Consultation?
January 2018

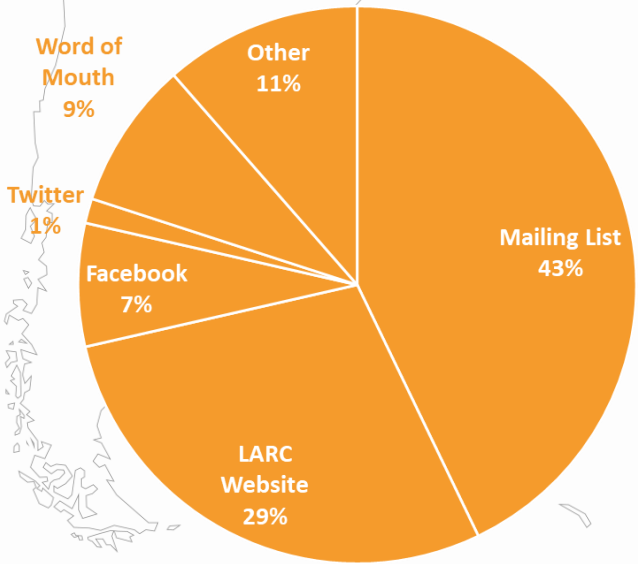
“ *There are many reasons why Moreno might have taken up the initiative to protect the Yasuní. These range from a sincere desire to protect the environment, to a narrower political calculation to distance himself from his predecessor and strengthen his own political base.*

Reaching our Stakeholders

Website

The website (larc.ucalgary.ca) continued to provide an accessible platform to promote and connect our work. Graphic-driven and modelled on cutting-edge platforms, it makes full use of accessible digital media. As part of the design, the Centre features publications as well as video interviews with scholars and experts on a variety of topics highlighted at our events.

How did you hear about our events?



FACULTY OF ARTS
Latin American Research Centre
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4 | CANADA
403.210.3929
larc@ucalgary.ca
larc.ucalgary.ca