



FACULTY OF ARTS



LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



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. Any great university needs not only strong departments and disciplines, but also places where disciplines connect and collaborate. Making those connections is at the core of what the LARC is about.

We've had a busy year working toward these goals. We welcomed a number of international visitors, hosted many events, and strengthened our local and international partnerships. Latin Americans are asking many of the same questions we are in Canada. Our job at the LARC is to help bring people together toward answering them.

In this sense, we are strongly 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. We were honoured in October to welcome former Secretary-General of the Organization of American States José Miguel Insulza, to speak about the challenges to democracy in the Western Hemisphere. We closed the year with a similarly insightful discussion by Ben Rowsell, President of the Canadian International Council and former Canadian Ambassador to Venezuela, on the threats of populism.

Our film series, an audience favourite, showcased award-winning classic cinema and powerful documentaries. In February we also partnered with the Colombian and Mexican consulates to put on the first-

ever Colombian-Mexican film series.

Our Dialogues Series, held in the spectacular new Central Library building, brought together writers who are changing the perspective of Canadian Literature. Why did the LARC put on an event focusing on Canadian literature? One of the writers featured, Carmen Aguirre, is Chilean-Canadian, and the kind of cross-boundary conversation that emerged with Larissa Lai and Liz Howard, two writers with very different backgrounds and voices, is exactly what the LARC aims to spark. We also hosted events with a broad range of local and international partners, on subjects as diverse as Brazilian defence and security policy, reconciliation and the rights of indigenous peoples, the politics of migration, and the crisis in Venezuela. Our publications also reflect our broad horizons, on issues ranging from internationalization of education in Venezuela, to democracy in Mexico under president López Obrador, to art and shamanism in ancient Central America.

The LARC has deep roots in the University, and will continue to grow, connecting across borders, disciplines, cultures and sectors. We do so through support from the Faculty of Arts, our Fellows and Executive Committee, our Advisory Board, and our vibrant community of stakeholders. Our roots, breadth and diversity are our strengths.

Engage with us. We want to hear from you.

Pablo Policzer
Director

***Connect with the
LARC and expand
your horizons***



Latin American Research Centre

Our core values

Vision

In a globally connected world, where Latin Americans are asking many of the same questions as everyone else, the LARC is a link between people and ideas across boundaries and disciplines.

Mission

The LARC helps the University lift up its eyes, broaden its horizons, and see farther. We connect people and ideas across disciplines and regions.

LARC engaged over **1140**
people in 2018-19 through public
events, movies, and dialogues



FILM SERIES

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.

Latin American Classics

120 attendees

La Deuda Interna
(Veronico Cruz)

Argentina
1988

September

27



Yawar Mallku
(Blood of the Condor)

Bolivia
1969

October

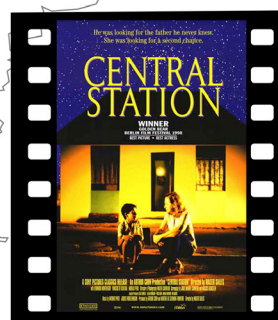
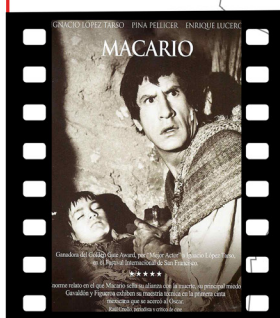
25

Macario

Mexico
1960

November

1



Central do Brasil
(Central Station)

Brazil
1998

November

29

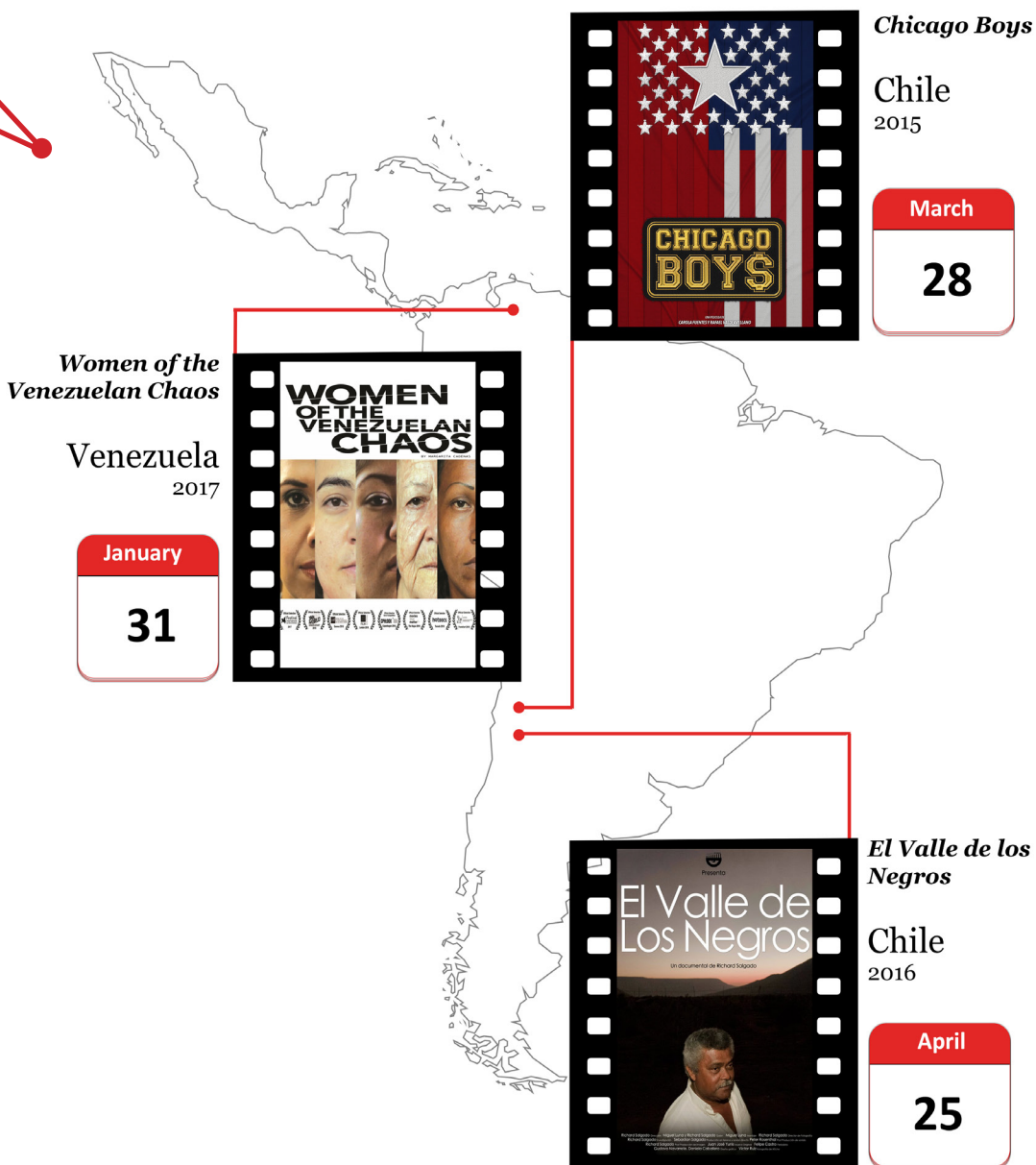


LARC FELLOW **Roberta RICE**

is an Associate Professor of Indigenous Politics in the **Department of Political Science** at the University of Calgary. She is currently working on a comparative project on Indigenous rights and representation in Canada and Latin America. She has been an enthusiastic contributor to LARC, including presenting and discussing the film Yawar Malku.

Latin American Documentaries

96 attendees



MEXICO - COLOMBIA FILM FESTIVAL

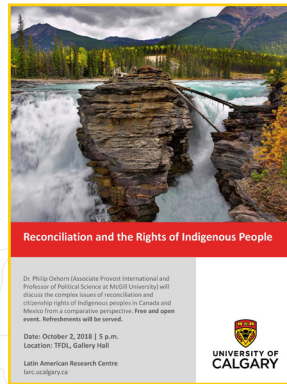
LARC and the Mexican and Colombian Consulates hosted two movie screenings per week during February in the first ever Mexico - Colombia Film Festival.

250 attendees



SPEAKERS SERIES

The Speakers Series invites Fellows, graduate students, and local and international scholars to share their research with the academic community and general public.



Reconciliation and the Rights of Indigenous People: A Civil Society Perspective

Dr. Philip Oxhorn | October 2

Professor Oxhorn, McGill University, discussed the problematic nature of the citizenship rights of Indigenous peoples from a comparative perspective.

15 attendees

Decolonizing Historical Knowledge: Notes From an Activist/Academic Collaboration

Dr. Jaymie Heilman | April 1

Dr. Heilman, University of Alberta, discussed the academic collaboration between an Indigenous activist from Peru and a Canadian academic.

30 attendees



Roundtable on the Venezuelan Crisis

A panel of experts discussed the domestic and international dimensions of the political crisis in Venezuela. The panel was held at the south courtyard of MacEwan Student Centre | March 21.

Panelists included:

- **Ian Brodie**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science
- **Jeanne Liendo**, MA Student, Dept. of Political Science
- **María Cristina Parra-Sandoval**, LARC Visiting Fellow
- **Terry Terriff**, Professor, Dept. of Political Science

35 attendees



At a Crossroads: Migrant Caravans and the Politics of Protection, Protest, and Pilgrimage

Dr. Victoria Simmons | March 19

LARC and the Calgary Public Library hosted a talk by Visiting Fellow Dr. Victoria Simmons on three different Central American migrant caravans that have gained visibility in recent years.

30 attendees

A Brazilian Perspective in Defense and Regional Security

Dr. Graciela De Conti Pagliari | March 14
LARC and CMSS hosted visiting fellow Dr. De Conti Pagliari presenting on Brazilian security and defense policy.

15 attendees



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

258 attendees

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. Together, the LARC and CALL hosted a monthly lecture series on Latin American issues at the arts hub cSpace.

Elizabeth Pando

Creating Policy from the Bottom-up: Municipal Governments and Immigration Policy in Chile
September 11, 2018.

Ben McKay

Food Sovereignty and Neo-extractivism: Limits and Possibilities of an Alternative Development Model in Latin America
October 9, 2018.

Pablo Policzer

2018 Elections in Latin America
November 13, 2018.

Jeanne Liendo

The Top-down Policymaking Process: How Venezuela's Oil Sector Collapsed
January 15, 2019.

Ricardo Vernet

Can Peasants Foster Democracies?
February 12, 2019.

David Barrios Giraldo

State Funerals in Latin America: Constructing National Memories from the Broken Fragments of a Troubled History
March 12, 2019.

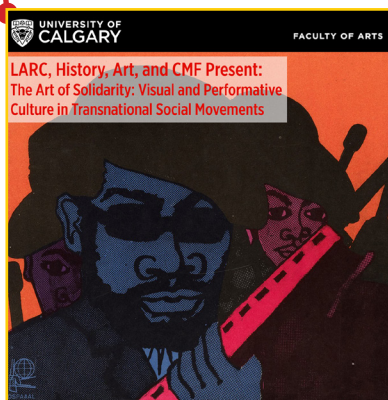
Maria Cristina Parra-Sandoval

How Did We Get Here and What Comes Next?: Perspectives on the Crisis in Venezuela
April 9, 2019.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Perspectives from the Ground

Dr. Maria del Carmen Suescun | April 25
This talk by Dr. Suescun, Brock University, focused on current CSR practice in Latin America and the Caribbean and how it is influenced by global trends and adapted to local contexts.

7 attendees



The Art of Solidarity: Visual and Performative Culture in Transnational Social Movements

Dr. Jessica Stites Mor | November 19
Dr. Stites Mor, UBC Okanagan, spoke on artistic production in solidarity movements throughout the Cold War era.

30 attendees

SPECIAL EVENTS

LARC special events advance discussion around global issues of contemporary significance to Latin America and beyond.



Challenges to Democracy in Latin America

Keynote address by **JOSÉ MIGUEL INSULZA**

The Latin American Research Centre, Canadian Council for the Americas, Department of Political Science, and School of Public Policy invite you to a keynote presentation by Chilean Senator and former Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insulza.

Date: October 11, 2018
Location: EEEL Building Atrium | 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Free and open event. Refreshments will be served.
Registration: larc.ucalgary.ca/insulza

Supporting partners:



Challenges to Democracy in Latin America

The Latin American Research Centre, Canadian Council for the Americas - Alberta, Department of Political Science, and School of Public Policy hosted a keynote presentation by Chilean Senator and former Secretary General of the Organization of American States, **José Miguel Insulza** | October 11

125 attendees



“The roundtable with Senator Insulza was the most salient event for me this season. It was an incredible opportunity to ask more in-depth questions to one of the most influential politicians in Latin America.”

—Comment from LARC Survey

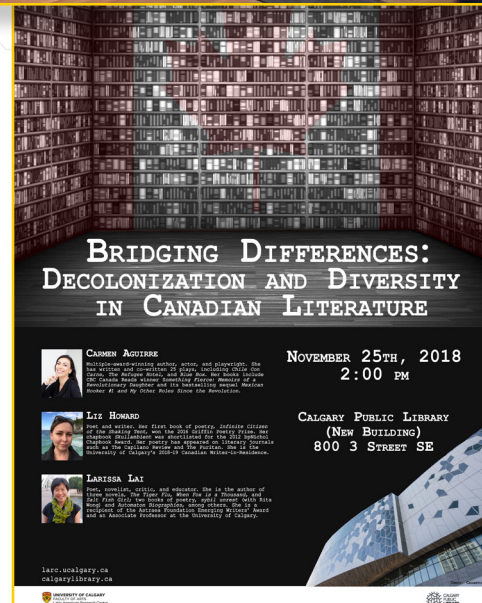
LARC DIALOGUES



Bridging Differences: Decolonization and Diversity in Canadian Literature

LARC and the Calgary Public Library hosted writers **Carmen Aguirre, Larissa Lai and Liz Howard** to discuss how diverse perspectives are changing the identity of Canadian literature | November 25

40 attendees



Meeting the Threat Populism Poses to Canada's International Interests

Canada's former ambassador in Venezuela, **Ben Rowsell** shared his perspectives on the social and political crisis in Venezuela and the perils of populism in countries close to Canada. A talk hosted in partnership with Canadian International Council | May 22

60 attendees





Victoria Simmons

Victoria teaches at Mount Royal University. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Carleton University (Canada), an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (U.N.A.M) and a B.A. in Development Studies from the University of Calgary. Dr. Simmons has authored and co-authored publications on migration, gender, and borders in Latin America.



Adriana Rincón Villegas

Adriana is a doctoral candidate in the Global Governance and Human Security program at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is also a research assistant at University of Alberta, and an Individualized Study Tutor at Athabasca University. She holds an MA in geography and a degree in law. Her research interests revolve around decolonial feminism and critical peace studies in Colombia.



María Cristina Parra-Sandoval

María Cristina has a Master of Science degree in Sociology and a PhD in Development Studies. In recent years, she has been involved in research in the area of Latin American Higher Education, with an emphasis on higher education policy and internationalization.

VISITING FELLOWS



Andrés Lalama Vargas

Andrés obtained a Master's degree in History from the University of Calgary, and a Bachelor's degree from MacEwan University. His research focuses on nationalist discourses in Ecuador during its border conflict with Peru, as well as in relation to masculinity ideals in the early twentieth century. He will start a PhD in History at the University of Toronto in September 2019.



Graciela De Conti Pagliari

Graciela is Professor of International Relations at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil). She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Brasília (UnB, Brazil). She is vice-chair of Brazil in the Americas Research Group and member of the Science, Technology and Innovation in Defense: Cybernetics and National Defense project (Pro-Defense IV) of the Brazilian Ministry of Defense.



Rita Giacalone

Rita received her Ph.D. in History from Indiana University. She is a former Professor of Economic History and Director of the School of Political Science at the Universidad de Los Andes, in Venezuela. In addition to being a LARC Visiting Fellow, she is also a Visiting Professor at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, in Argentina. Her research focuses on regional integration, business-State relations and foreign policy analysis.

LARC FELLOW Pascal LUPIN

is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Guelph. His current research considers the impact of information and communications technologies (ICTs) on the capacity of organizations representing Indigenous and Black minorities in Latin America to pursue their interests, a work he is doing with LARC Visiting Fellows Adriana Rincón and Andrés Lalama.



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

Berenice Cancino

Berenice is a Master's student in Transcultural Studies. She graduated from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education with a Bachelor in Communication Studies in 2011, and worked as a sessional instructor of written composition in that same university. Her research examines the aesthetic of sound design and its implication on provoking empathy in films that portray postcolonial conflicts; the films she has chosen to analyze depict experiences of Latin America and North America.



Isabel Lara

Isabel is an international Ph.D. student in the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures, having arrived in Calgary from Colombia in September 2012. She is currently finishing a thesis on Francisca Josefa del Castillo y Guevara, a Colombian mystic writer from the seventeenth century. While in Colombia in June 2013, Isabel was able to consult the various manuscripts written by Castillo y Guevara housed in the Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango in Bogotá. Her thesis analyzes the mystical language in this author's work.



Ricardo Vernet

Ricardo is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He received a BA in Political Science from the University of Waterloo and a Master's degree from McMaster University. His current project examines the factors that led to the failure of democracy in Haiti and Nicaragua. The study develops a path-dependent approach that incorporates domestic and international structures to provide a clear picture of this phenomenon.



LARC STAFF

Monique Greenwood Program Administrator
Rogelio Velez Mendoza Digital Support

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.

32 fellows



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

LARC FELLOW

Amelia KIDDLE

is Associate Professor of Spanish American history and the Coordinator of the Latin American Studies Program at the University of Calgary. She specializes in the political and cultural history of Mexican foreign relations. This year she served in the Executive Committee and was instrumental in organizing several of the talks for this year's Speakers Series.



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTRE

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

Harrie Vredenburg

Professor, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary

Phil Roberts

Vintri Technologies

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

Amelia Kiddle

Department of History & Latin American Studies

Ben McKay

Anthropology and Archaeology

Geoff McCafferty

Department of Anthropology & Archaeology

Luis Torres

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures

José M. Gordillo

Department of History

Verónica de la Rosa Jaimes

Cumming School of Medicine

The Centre regularly publishes freely accessible articles online that cover a wide range of issues and fields of contemporary significance. Articles are written by experts in the field and aimed at a general audience. This year we also had an addition to our **Latin American & Caribbean Studies Book Series**.



Film Review: Ixcanel [sic]: A commentary from Oxlajuj Aj

Ixq'anil Judith M. Maxwell and Jun Ajpu' Brett C. Nelson | October 2018

"Because the film is spoken almost entirely in Kaqchikel, the viewer is invited to believe that it shows a Kaqchikel reality and to assume that the problems shown are particular to the Kaqchikel. The members of Oxlajuj Aj challenged these assumptions."



Fantasia: Animistic Art and Shamanism in Ancient Central America

Geoffrey McCafferty and Sharisse McCafferty | May 2019

"If art is transformed by extra-sensory experience, to what extent can that experience be recognized in the pre-Columbian past? In this article we discuss the shamanic visions encoded in the visual culture of the ancient Americas, focusing especially on the relationship between painted images of the praying mantis on Nicaraguan pottery to the Nahua goddess Cihuacoatl of central Mexico."



Internacionalización de la Educación Superior en Venezuela en Tiempos de la Revolución Bolivariana: un Proceso Sesgado

María Cristina Parra-Sandoval | May 2019

"Hasta ahora los intereses políticos internacionales del gobierno han afectado directamente la dirección de los esfuerzos de las universidades del país para abrir sus puertas al mundo."

ABOUT LARC

Every year LARC conducts a year-end survey to ask our stakeholders about their engagement with the centre and their overall satisfaction with our programs. This year LARC recieved some great comments.

"Thank you to the LARC team for all your hard work!"

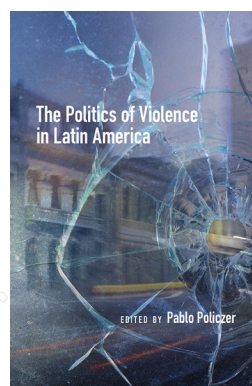
—Comment from LARC Survey

"LARC is a great resource for the academic community working on Latin American issues. I find all its events are of very high quality, engaging, and importantly, they bridge the academic world and the community. I plan to continue attending and participating in LARC's events."

—Comment from LARC Survey

64%

**of survey
responants
have been
engaged with
LARC for 3 or
more years**



The Politics of Violence in Latin America

Edited by Pablo Policzer | July 2019



Mexico under AMLO: a Disrupted Democracy

Alejandro García Magos | June 2019

“Ironically, AMLO’s landslide victory in last year’s presidential election did not help to reduce his animosity against the INE. In his inauguration speech, he did not have a single word of recognition for it despite having organized the largest election in the country’s history without major incidents —no small feat given Mexico’s size and security problems.”

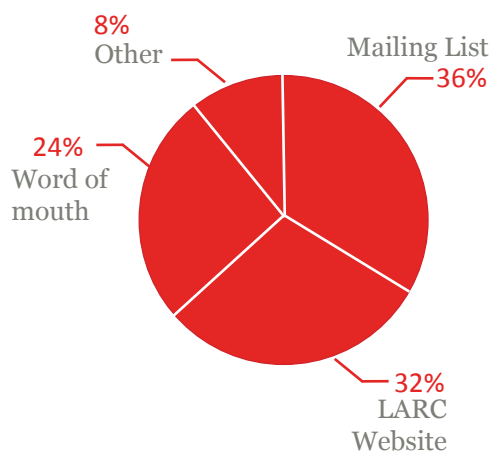


Shifting Brazil’s South American Foreign Policy Under Bolsonaro’s Government

Graciela De Conti Pagliari | July 2019

“One of the most significant changes has been in foreign policy. The Bolsonaro government will be potentially overturning patterns of integration and cooperation that took decades to build, and were once deemed pivotal for Brazil.”

How did you hear about our events?



New LARC Initiative

LARC Work in Progress Series

LARC will be hosting informal conversations and presentations from fellows and visiting fellows on their ongoing research. Stay tuned for more!

Adriana Rincón | June 13

Crossing the Atlantic: my Journey from Academia to the World of Practitioners

Andrés Lalama | June 27

Between Inequality and Ingenuity: Notes on a Non-Scholarly Trip to Cuba

Dr. Graciela De Conti Pagliari | July 25

Cybernetics and State Capacity: A New Resource for Power?

Photo: Universidade Federal da Bahia
Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

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