



FACULTY OF ARTS

# Latin American Research Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

# Message from the Director

*Pablo Policzer*



With our sights set firmly south, the LARC's mission is to help the University lift up its eyes, broaden its horizons, and see farther. Over the past year, we have made great strides

toward these goals, hosting innovative events, welcoming international and local visitors, and undertaking new partnerships and projects. As a multidisciplinary centre, we are well on our way to broadening our impact.

We are committed to the Faculty of Arts' goals of engaging, inspiring and discovering. Our events have certainly engaged large numbers of people. The increasingly successful film series showcases award-winning contemporary cinema from across the region, often in partnership with local consulates and community organizations. Guest speakers have inspired discussion on cutting-edge research, and we

are proud to have established a new partnership with the Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners to engage community audiences outside the university. We have hosted events with a broad range of university partners – including the School of Public Policy and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities – welcomed graduate student residents from across campus, and visitors from Canada and abroad. Our publications also reflect our broad interests and horizons, from Mexican surrealist photography to the current Venezuelan crisis.

As we move forward, we will continue to reach out, establishing new partnerships and undertaking ambitious new projects. We will be collaborating with the Calgary Public Library on several initiatives that will continue in the state-of-the-art downtown library building, opening in 2018. We are also undertaking new fellow-led projects on extractive resource governance and sustainable development.

The LARC has deep roots, stretching back to the earliest days of the University, and flourishes today through support from the Faculty of Arts, its Fellows and Executive Committee, its Advisory Board, and its large and growing 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

The 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 public service 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.

### Vision

The LARC aims to become the leading Latin America-focused research centre in Canada, and to join the top tier of such centres around the world. Because leading requires innovation, we are 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.

*Connect with the LARC and expand your horizons.*



# Events

*over 1250 people attended events*

## 400 attended the 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.

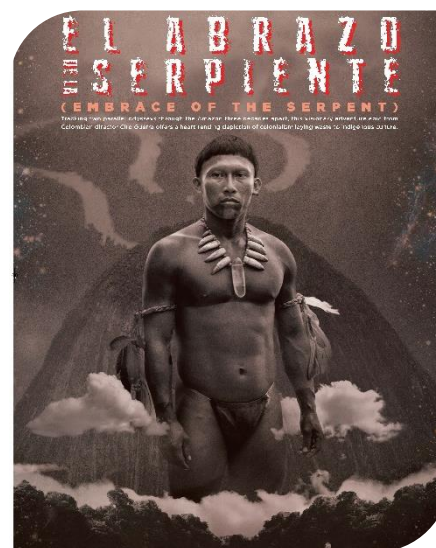
- “Betibú” by Miguel Cohan (Argentina). September 29, 2016.
- “Ayotzinapa: Chronicle of a State Crime” by Xavier Robles (Mexico). October 13, 2016.
- “Los Hongos” by Oscar Ruiz Navia (Colombia). October 27, 2016.
- Venezuelan Short films: “Colmillo” by Albi de Abreu, “Galus Galus” by Clarissa Duque, “Nostalgia” by Gustavo Rondon, “The Guilt, Probably” by Michael Labarca, and “La Mula Muerta” and “D” by Rafael Velasquez Stanbury. November 24, 2016.

### Mexico Film Series, with Support from the Consulate of Mexico in Calgary

- “Los Bañistas” by Max Zunino (Mexico). January 26, 2017.
- “El Comienzo del tiempo” by Bernardo Arellano (Mexico). February 23, 2017.
- “El Violín” by Francisco Vargas (Mexico). March 30, 2017.
- “Burros” by Odín Salazar (Mexico). April 27, 2017.

### Special Film Screening, with Support from the Consulate of Colombia in Calgary

- “El Abrazo de la serpiente” by Ciro Guerra (Colombia). June 20, 2017.



*Film screening of **El Abrazo de la serpiente** (Embrace of the Serpent).*

## 200 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.

- “Cosmogony of the Moriche Flower” by Carlos Betancourt, Artist. September 20, 2016.
- “Coffee, Crooks, and Congress: Campesino Politics and Guatemala’s Tumultuous Present” by Simon Granovsky-Larsen, University of Regina. September 23, 2016.
- “Developing Leaders in Sustainability: SEDV Student Internship Experiences in Ecuadorian Communities” by Haskayne School of Business Graduate Students. December 8, 2016.
- “Ancient Maya Relational Geography and Resource Development in East-Central Belize” by Meaghan Peuramäki-Brown, Athabasca University. January 26, 2017.
- “Political Competition and Military Recruitment in Wartime: Elections in Paraguayan-War Era Brazil” by Vitor Izecksohn, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. February 6, 2017.
- Graduate Student Symposium. March 23, 2017.
  - “Tax Evasion, Tourism and Development: The Caribbean Mexico Template” by Linda M. Ambrosie, Post-Doctorate Fellow, Haskayne School of Business.
  - “Sustainable Destinations: A Comparison Study of the Galápagos Islands and Banff” by Connor Bedard, Master’s Student, Haskayne School of Business.

- “A Spectral Based Method for Neovascularization Detection Near the Optic Disk Due to Diabetic Retinopathy” by Diego Coelho, Doctoral Student, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering.
- “An Examination of Chipped-Stone Material from the Wo’ Complex at Yaxnohcah, Campeche, Mexico” by Alyssa Haggard, Master’s Student, Dept. of Anthropology & Archaeology.
- “The ‘Petrolão’ Scandal, the ‘Car Wash’ Investigation, and Corruption in Brazil” by Mariana Hipólito R. Mota, PhD, Dept. of Political Science.
- “Ecuadorian Media Discourses on the 1941-1942 War with Peru” by Andrés Lalama Vargas, Master’s Student, Dept. of History.
- “Eroticism in the First Part of the Afectos Espirituales by Francisca Josefa de Castillo (1671- 1742)” by Isabel Lara, Doctoral Student, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures.
- “Is the Left Fading in Latin America?” by Jeanne Liendo, Master’s Student, Dept. of Political Science.
- “Sustainability and Leadership in Ecuador: An Assessment of Competence Acquisition (High School Students in Ecuador)” by Maria Margarita Meza Rios, Master’s Student, Haskayne School of Business.
- “Tickets to the Moon: The Colombian Press and the Space Race” by Rogelio Vélez Mendoza, Master’s Student, Dept. of History.
- “Understanding Peasant Democracy: The Case of Haiti” by Ricardo Vernet, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Political Science.
- “Populism and the Politics of Truth” by Jon Beasley-Murray, University of British Columbia. Co-hosted with the Calgary Institute for the Humanities. March 17, 2017.



*Graduate Student Symposium (left to right: Dr. Roberta Rice, Jeanne Liendo, Ricardo Vernet, and Mariana Hipólito R. Mota).*

## Over 650 engaged in LARC Community Collaborations

### **Conversatorio on Colombia**

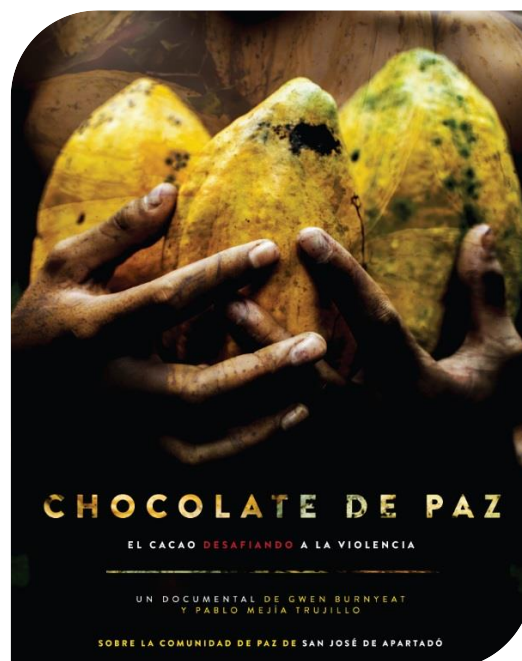
In collaboration with the Consulate of Colombia in Calgary, the LARC hosted a public discussion and information session on the plebiscite in which Colombians voted on whether to approve or reject the historic peace accord between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrilla group to end half a century of conflict. In this *conversatorio*, participants discussed the terms of the peace agreement and its implications. September 15, 2016.

### **Welcome Back Reception**

Faculty, students, staff and LARC volunteers met and mingled at the 2016 welcome back reception. September 15, 2016.

### **Chocolate de Paz with Paz in Motion**

In collaboration with local NGO Paz in Motion, the LARC screened the documentary “Chocolate de paz” which depicts the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó’s experiences of resistance via a journey through their processes of organic chocolate production. Colombian Consul Andrés Talero and filmmaker Gwen Burnyeat were present for comments and discussion. December 8, 2016.



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

The LARC undertook a new partnership 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 Rosedale Community Hall. This series of monthly lectures, presented by professors and graduate students in the LARC, explored various aspects of Latin American history and current issues. Each one-hour lecture was followed by questions and discussion.

- “The Mexican Oil Expropriation of 1938” by Amelia Kiddle. October 4, 2017.
- “Day of the Dead: How the Maya people celebrated death” by Alejandra Alonso Olvera. November 1, 2017.
- “Ethnicity and the Politics of Identity in Upper Peru & Bolivia” by José Miguel Gordillo. November 29, 2017.
- “The Early History of Carnival in Brazil” by Hendrik Kraay. January 17, 2017.
- “Democracy in Brazil: Why does it seem that corruption is getting worse?” by Mariana Hipólito R. Mota. February 21, 2017.
- “Overview of Latin American Integration in the 21st Century” by Rita Giacalone. March 21, 2017.
- “The State of Democracy in Latin America: Lessons for the North” by Pablo Policzer. April 18, 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 on collective well-being and international collaborations, panel discussion, photo exhibit, as well as two film screenings with renowned Mexican filmmaker Emilio Maillé.

- Mexico Days Keynote address “Buen Vivir (Collective Well-Being) and International Collaborations” by Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez, University of Alberta. November 3, 2016.
- Film Screening “Miradas Múltiples: La máquina loca” by Emilio Maillé (Mexico). December 1, 2016.
- Film Screening “Rosario Tijeras” by Emilio Maillé (Colombia/Mexico). December 2, 2016.

### **Roundtable on “Inter-American Relations in the Age of Trump” with the School of Public Policy**

This roundtable event provided a forum for the public to discuss various perspectives on the current state of inter-American relations with several distinguished panelists. March 3, 2017.

- Consul of Colombia Andrés Talero Gutiérrez.
- Rita Giacalone, Professor, Universidad de los Andes & Visiting Fellow, Latin American Research Centre.
- Carlo Dade, Director for the Centre for Trade & Investment Policy, Canada West Foundation.
- Eugene Beaulieu, Program Director for International Trade, School of Public Policy.

## **Website**

The website ([larc.ucalgary.ca](http://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.



*Latin American Studies students entered into the “Day of the Dead” altar competition during Mexico Days.*



*Simon Granovsky-Larsen, University of Regina, gave a talk on campesino politics in Guatemala.*

# People

## 7 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 engaged in a range of activities that included 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.

### Visiting Scholars

- Alejandra Duque, Master's Student, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Mexico.
- Rita Giacalone, Professor, Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela.
- Victoria Simmons, PhD Candidate, Carleton University, Canada.
- Fernanda Argolo Dantas, PhD Candidate, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil.

### UC Graduate Students in Residence

- Alyssa Haggard, Master's Student, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology.
- Ricardo Vernet, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science.
- Rogelio Vélez Mendoza, Master's Student, Department of History & LARC Support Staff.



*Dr. Rita Giacalone gave a talk on Latin American regional economic integration as part of the CALL Lecture Series.*

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*"My visiting fellowship at the Latin American Research Centre has been outstanding. LARC has provided me with generous institutional support, as well as an excellent forum for sharing and developing my ideas with scholars from around the world. My professional networks, skills and knowledge have all grown thanks to the invaluable space which the LARC provides for informal exchanges during the work day and public events in and around Calgary."*

*Victoria Simmons – LARC Visiting Fellow & PhD Candidate, Carleton University*

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### 33 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**, Department of History

**Eugene Beaulieu**, Department of Economics & School of Public Policy

**Nayibe Bermúdez Barrios**, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures

**Merlin Brinkerhoff**, UC International  
**Denise Fay Brown**, Department of Geography  
**Conny Davidsen**, Department of Geography  
**Shawn England**, Humanities, Mount Royal University  
**Susan Franceschet**, Department of Political Science  
**José Miguel Gordillo**, School of Languages and Cultures, Mount Royal University  
**Simon Granovsky-Larsen**, Politics & International Studies, University of Regina  
**Rita Henderson**, Cumming School of Medicine  
**Irene Herremans**, Haskayne School of Business  
**Nina Hrycak**, Faculty of Nursing  
**Amelia M. Kiddle**, Department of History & Latin American Studies  
**Candelaria Konrad**, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures  
**Hendrik Kraay**, Department of History  
**Geoffrey McCafferty**, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology  
**John McLennan**, Cumming School of Medicine  
**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**, Department of History  
**Raj Rangayyan**, Schulich School of Engineering  
**Scott Raymond**, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology  
**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

## 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  
**Elizabeth Montes Garcés**, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures  
**Kathryn Reese-Taylor**, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology  
**Luis Torres**, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures



## Advisory Board

The Centre receives support and 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

**Amelia Kiddle (ex-officio)**, Coordinator, Latin American Studies Program, University of Calgary

**Karina Briño**, President & CEO, Mining Association of British Columbia

**Andrea Hatzinikolas**, VP Legal & Corporate, Alvopetro Energy Ltd.

**Bill Trefanenko**, Former Director, International Operations, Enbridge

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



*Emilio Maillé presented his film **Miradas Múltiples: La máquina loca** at the University of Calgary as part of Mexico Days. The documentary celebrated the life and work of legendary cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa and his work with iconic Mexican symbols and images.*

# Publications

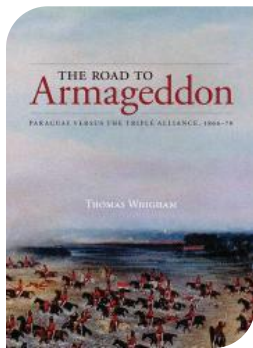
## 8 articles & books

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 are aimed at a general audience.

- “The Unexpected Surrealist: Manuel Álvarez Bravo’s Photopoetry” by Pilar Caballero-Alías. September 2016.
- “Does Costa Rica Need a Military?” by Greg Purdy. February 2017.
- “The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in the Trump Era” by Alejandro García Magos. March 2017.
- “¿Autogolpe, representación o maniobra política? La crisis venezolana de 2017” by Rita Giacalone. April 2017.
- “Is Your Next Vacation to a Caribbean Tax Haven? You might not believe so, but think again...” by Linda Ambrosie. May 2017.
- “Venezuela Plebiscite: The National Assembly vs. the Government” by Stephen J. Randall. July 2017.
- CALACS 2016 Conference Proceedings.



*Y por las noches gemía (1945) by Manuel Álvarez Bravo.*



In addition to the online publications, the Centre works with the University of Calgary Press to publish a book series on Latin America and the Caribbean. In existence for many years, the **Latin American and Caribbean Studies** series ([press.ucalgary.ca](http://press.ucalgary.ca)) is the only series of its kind in the country, and has become a landmark in the field of Latin American Studies.

***The Road to Armageddon: Paraguay Versus the Triple Alliance, 1866-70* by Dr. Thomas Whigham (2017).**

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*“When travelers visit a foreign tourist destination, the money they spend often does not remain in the local economy but rather ends up in a foreign tax haven...The loss of important tax revenues has serious social and environmental consequences for Caribbean and Latin American countries that look to tourism to raise them out of poverty and provide employment.”*

Linda M. Ambrosie - *Is Your Next Vacation to a Tax Haven?*

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# Financial Summary

*August 1, 2016- July 31, 2017*

Revenue	
Beginning Balance	\$ 20,460
Contributions from other units	\$ 1,500
Event Fundraising	\$ 2,390
Faculty of Arts Support	\$ 45,000
Faculty of Arts Book Series Support	\$ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 74,350</b>
Expenditures	
Administration & Personnel (Contract & Casual)	\$ 49,830
Materials & Supplies	\$ 800
Speakers & Events	\$ 7,655
UC Press Book Series	\$ 5,000
Publications	\$ 815
Meetings & Networking	\$ 1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 65.350</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>



***The LARC is at the forefront of a new generation of area studies centres redefining the field.*** In order to facilitate collaboration across cultures, languages, and disciplines, we need to expand our geographical and disciplinary horizons, to build meaningful partnerships across regions and fields of study. Within the Americas and beyond, we share common problems and challenges that require new approaches and innovative solutions. Connect with us. The world is changing and the LARC is ready to lead.



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