



Conference on Latin American History

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Volume 56, Number 1





CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

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2020 CLAH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Committee:

President: Bianca Premo
Vice President: Ben Vinson III
Past President: Lara Putman
Executive Directors:
Jürgen Buchenau and Erika Edwards

Elected Council Members:

Gabriela Ramos (2019-2020)
Celso Castilho (2019-2020)
Eileen Findlay (2020-2021)
David Carey (2020-2021)

Ex-Officio Council Members:

HAHR Editors: Martha Few, Matthew Restall, Amara Solari, Zachary Morgan
The Americas Editor: John F. Schwaller
H-LatAm Editor: Marc Becker

Standing Committees

Nominating Committee:

Karen Graubart (Chair)
Matthew O'Hara
Alex Aviña

Program Committee:

Carmen Soliz (2020 Chair)
Thomas Rogers (2021 Chair)
Frances Ramos

Regional/Thematical Sections

Andean Studies:

Elena McGrath, Chair
Nicole Pacino, Secretary

Atlantic World Studies:

Erin Stone, Chair
Norah Gharala, Secretary

Borderlands/Frontiers:

Natalie Mendoza, Chair

Brazilian Studies:

Heather F. Roller, Chair
Gillian McGillivray, Secretary

Caribbean Studies:

Devyn Spence Benson, Chair
Kaysa Corinealdi, Secretary

Central American Studies:

David Díaz Arias, Chair
Jordana Dym, Secretary

Chile-Rio de la Plata Studies:

Marian Schlotterbeck, Chair
Maria de los Angeles Picone, Secretary

Colonial Studies:

Alcira Dueñas, Chair
Adriana Chira, Secretary

Gran Colombia Studies:

Stefan Pohl, Chair
Shawn van Ausdal, Secretary

Mexican Studies:

Pablo M. Sierra Silva, Chair
Gladys McCormick, Secretary

Teaching and Teaching Materials

Corinna Zeltsman, Chair
Casey Lurtz, Secretary

I. MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BIANCA PREMO



It's the first weekend of coronavirus-inspired "social distancing" in the United States. For decades, I've reflected on the observations of Latin American friends about how US Americans are cultural social distancers in any event. No kissing upon greeting, less sense of community, less emphasis on the physical proximity of family. For the time being, we are about to see what happens when we atomize even further and whether we find ways to create community where we cannot take bodies for granted.

The way that invisible action makes community tangible is, in fact, exactly what I hoped to write about in this newsletter even before the uncertainty of a pandemic descended. Rather than making that idea seem quaint, recent events have made this theme seem urgent. As I commented at the January luncheon in New York, Vice President Ben Vinson and I have marveled at the way CLAH members seem not only willing but eager to do the work that makes CLAH a real thing. As our collective levels of service labor and teaching demands rise and our job security as historians diminishes, one would expect that voluntary work for professional organizations—especially those created in a vastly different professional context—would dry up. But this is not our experience. When we reach out for committees, for innovative ideas, for direction, you respond. And CLAH does not take it for granted.

We appreciate that you pay dues.

We appreciate that you take the time to take surveys.

We appreciate that you make surveys.

We appreciate that you create panels and workshops that engage diverse perspectives, kindling our passion for Latin American and Caribbean history and feeding the flame of our conviction that the past is meaningful in the present.

We appreciate that you come to the luncheon and lay down big bucks at the cocktail party so we can be a community in celebration as well as in contemplation.

We appreciate that you are finding ways of making our organization dynamic in new contexts and useful to new generations of scholars.

We appreciate that you do the very onerous and sometimes agonizing work of deciding which scholarship will be honored with prizes or grants when so much is deserving.

We appreciate that you submit your scholarship for consideration for prizes or for funding.

We appreciate that you endow and contribute in all ways.

We appreciate that you do the absolutely heroic work of organizing the conference program for CLAH.

We appreciate that you agree to stand for election and risk not being selected or (worse!?) being elected and having to do the labor.

We appreciate that you support colleagues and mentors and take the time to assemble nominations for the Distinguished Service Award.

We appreciate that you step up for ad hoc committees organized around our future.

We appreciate your boundless generosity of time, labor and energy, and your unflagging dedication to what can seem like an invisible community but is indeed a very real way to bring us ever nearer to each other.

Be well,
Bianca

II. MESSAGE FROM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JURGEN BUCHENAU



Colegas:

On behalf of our CLAH office team also including co-Executive Director Erika Edwards and graduate assistant, Rossmery Palacio, greetings from Charlotte! To start out with, I have nothing to add to our President's very moving message, written amidst a global calamity that evolves minute to minute and occupies most of our attention. I, too, am very appreciative of the loyalty and hard work of our CLAH community. More than anything else, we hope that you all stay safe and healthy, and that this moment passes without too much loss of human life. Certainly, we will all be rethinking the meanings of connection and community in the coming months.

Given our rapidly evolving situation, our successful conference in New York City seems like years ago. Yet I do not want to us to forget all the hard work that went into organizing the meeting. Most notably, I thank the Program Committee: Rachel O'Toole (chair), Carmen Soliz (2021 chair), and Louis A. Pérez, Jr. I also

appreciate Rossmery's capable help with keeping the trains running on time, and, as always, the assistance from the AHA, especially the Meetings Manager, Debbie A. Doyle and the Executive Director, James. Grossman. The luncheon was memorable, thanks to the work of our prize and award committees and an address by our Distinguished Service Award winner, Donna Guy. For the first time in recent memory, the luncheon featured a buffet rather than a plated lunch, and we remain very interested in your feedback about how well the experiment worked.

As part of the conference, the CLAH also conducted a highly productive business meeting that produced some important changes for our organization. In particular, the General Committee endorsed a new CLAH Constitution that adds clarity and transparency to our procedures. Recently ratified by the membership, the new constitution adds member input by adding two elected members to what used to be the General Committee, including one non-tenure-track faculty member, independent scholar, or graduate student. There were also changes to nomenclature. 1) To reflect its legislative and oversight role, the General Committee became the Council; 2) to clarify the fiduciary role of those who keep the books of the organization, the title of Executive Secretary changed to Executive Director; and 3) to reflect the size of our groups studying regional or thematic subfields, our regional and topical "committees" became "sections." The new document also more clearly delineates amendment procedures for the

constitution and bylaws and separates governance (addressed in the constitution) from policy, which will henceforth be defined by the Council via a series of documents. The first of these documents, available on the CLAH website, addresses financial matters such as the endowment, prizes, and awards, which were formerly addressed in cursory fashion in the constitution and bylaws.

We hope that the structure—informed in part by the results from a survey commissioned by our Centennial Committee under the leadership of Tatiana Seijas—will better serve our evolving organization as we approach our centennial in 2026. The survey results also spawned a larger discussion about the role and scope of the CLAH. For example, what is the role of the CLAH in the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education, especially with the scarcity of tenure-track employment? What role can the CLAH play in the “professionalization” of our graduate students, preparing them for the future past the award of their degrees? We hope to continue these productive discussions in the years ahead.

III. Approved Minutes of the 2019 General Committee Meeting

Lara Putnam, President

Bianca Premo, Vice President and President-elect

Jurgen Buchenau and Erika Edwards, Co-Executive Secretaries

January 3, 2019, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago

1. Call to order and roll call of voting members of the General Committee

In attendance: President Lara Putnam, Vice President and President Elect Bianca Premo, Past President Jerry Dávila, Co-Executive Secretaries Jurgen Buchenau and Erika Edwards, General Committee elected members Sarah Cline, Matthew O'Hara, and Tatiana Seijas, Americas editor Ben Vinson III, H-LATAM editor John F. Schwaller. Absent: General Committee member Lillian Guerra and HAHR co-editor Martha Few. Also present: CLAH members Marc Becker, Monica Rankin, Lucinda Stroud, Leah Walton, Glenn Chambers, Julia Sarreal, Rachel O'Toole.

2. Approval of minutes of the 2018 meeting in Washington, D.C. (attachment 1)

Sarah Cline made a friendly amendment to spell out AHILA as Asociación de Historiadores Latinoamericanistas Europeos.

Jurgen Buchenau informed those present that the Executive Committee agreed to delay publication of the meeting minutes until they have been officially approved, including the listing of business conducted since the annual meeting. Hence, the minutes published in the Spring 2019 Newsletter will be those about to be approved by the General Committee for 2018, and the minutes from today's meeting will not appear in the Newsletter until Spring 2020 when the General Committee will have approved them.

John Schwaller moved to approve the minutes, and Sarah Cline seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Fall 2018 Election results and prize committee appointments (attachment 2)

Tatiana Seijas asked how these committees are staffed. Lara Putnam explained that the President and President Elect share the duties of staffing the standing and prize committees each year, with the co-Executive Secretaries responsible for the Program Committee. Tatiana wondered whether faculty consider their appointments an honor or a service obligation, and whether their departments reward such service. Tatiana noted that there was an overabundance of women on Prize Committees and asked if the CLAH could achieve parity in gender? She also noted the distinction between chairing and serving (greater honor).

Lara suggested that the CLAH perhaps shift more of the committees to a rotating principle where the senior committee member serves as chair.

Sarah Cline moved approval of the election results and prize committee appointments, and Jerry Dávila seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The CLAH General Committee congratulates all those elected and appointed to new roles in the organization and thanks these members as well as all of those who stood for election for their service to the CLAH.

4. Report of the Program Committee

Monica Rankin presented a report on behalf of the 2019 Program Committee. She thanked the other two committee members, Rachel O'Toole and Michael Huner, as well as Erika Edwards for their help. The committee received proposals for 49 panels and 17 individual papers. The AHA Program Committee adopted 20 of these sessions, and based on the slots provided to the CLAH by the AHA, the committee was able to accept all 29 complete panels as well as create 4 additional panels with 4 papers. Most highly ranked panels fit at least one of the following criteria: they were comparative/transnational; they focused on a broader topic; and they had an appropriate distribution of people on panel (senior vs. junior faculty, for example, or inclusion of participants from Latin America).

Lara thanked the committee for their service.

5. Report on the Secretariat

Erika Edwards reported on the second year of the co-Secretariat. Duties are divided along the lines of the annual meeting program (Erika Edwards) and membership and budget (Jurgen Buchenau), with some responsibilities to shift this year. She thanked Lucy Stroud for her exceptional service to the CLAH as well as Nancy Gutierrez for supporting the History Department and Latin American Studies program at UNC Charlotte in their hosting of the CLAH. Erika also noted a recurrent problem with the CLAH meeting in that eight to ten people were on program more than twice, especially from among panels submitted directly to the AHA but not to the CLAH.

6. Review of Executive Secretary's 2018 Annual Report, discussion and vote on Proposed FY 2019 Budget (attachments 3a-c)

Jurgen Buchenau presented the annual report and proposed budget on behalf of the CLAH secretariat. Because of the addition of two- and three-year memberships, 2018 was an exceptionally good year. We received a major gift from Dan Socolow to endow our new Chile-Río de la Plata book prize, and many members took advantage of the opportunity created at last year's meeting to pay dues in advance and at a discount. The CLAH will need to expect somewhat lower dues revenues this year and next as these members do not need to renew, and it remains to be seen how many other members might now take advantage of this opportunity for the first time. Jurgen is hopeful that the two- and three-year memberships will result in a higher number of paid-up members each year, producing savings for members while also creating additional revenue for the CLAH. On the expense side, we had higher web hosting expenses than usual because of an outdated payment processing system that created significant issues for members trying to renew their membership. We have replaced this system with a simplified version.

For next year, the Secretariat anticipates lower dues revenue (for the reason provided above) and also lower web hosting expenses. With those exceptions, income and expenses should be similar to this year. We are budgeting carefully in case our assumptions about membership renewals in the current system are too optimistic.

We are already considering the impact of FY 2020, which will include the New York City meeting and a very expensive luncheon. The Secretariat always welcomes ideas for saving money.

Ben Vinson asked if there might be co-sponsoring organizations from NYC to help with the luncheon. The Secretariat will look into this option, as well as possibly getting some additional revenue from advertising in the Newsletter and program.

John Schwaller moved to approve the annual report and budget, and Sarah Cline seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Old Business

a. Report on cooperation with Asociación de Historiadores Latinoamericanistas Europeos (AHILA)

Erika Edwards reported that AHILA proposed a panel and included that panel (on European historiography of Latin America) in this year's program as part of this partnership.

Jerry: cooperation to enhance participation in each other's meeting. Secretary Natalia Sobrevilla organized roundtable. Next AHILA meeting September 1-4, 2020 in Paris; deadline Feb. 15, 2019 for symposia.

b. Update on Comprehensive Campaign/Endowment building

Discussion about beginning process during the last two years. As per last year's meeting, the Stewardship Committee was to begin process of advancement; and the Visioning Committee was to conduct a needs assessment. Lara Putnam, John Schwaller, and Jurgen Buchenau had Skype meeting and email exchanges about the process. The Socolow gift was the first substantive piece of this campaign, but the process of approval became really complicated in the process. There was no clear precedent on who needs to be consulted about the parameters of the gift. The Executive Committee scheduled a Skype meeting with GC that did not produce a quorum, ultimately necessitating an email canvas. This ad-hoc process—necessary as the only way to get the gift processed—is not ideal, as the CLAH needs to have agility to move quickly but also clarity and transparency in its communication with donors. Bianca Premo, Jerry Dávila, and Lara developed steps to think about achieving both that are necessary conditions to start outreach to future donors and identified areas where there needs to be clarity and vision before moving forward in the coming years. Lara thanked John for his efforts on behalf of the CLAH.

8. New Business

a. H-LATAM new editors

John Schwaller reported that our bylaws stipulate that the General Committee is the H-LATAM Board of Advisers. Therefore, the committee is responsible for approving H-LATAM editors. Right now, John and Marc Becker are the only editors, and they submitted these three names for consideration as additional editors:

Gretchen Pierce, Shippensburg University
Ulices Piña, Colorado College
Jonathan Truitt, Central Michigan University

Sarah Cline moved approval of this proposal, and Jurgen Buchenau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Constitution/Bylaws Revisions

Discussion focused on a series of amendments to the Constitution/Bylaws submitted by a) Sarah Cline (April and June 2018) and Jurgen Buchenau (December 2018). The former group of amendments came in response to questions that surfaced over the summer in the course of the Socolow donation, as well as an initiative to change the name of the organization. Sarah Cline justified her amendments explaining that there have been recurrent issues regarding named prizes, and specifically the practice of placing donations into the total endowment rather than a specific pool of money for the prize. She endowed the CLAH Howard Cline Prize with her sister in 2000 and also a LASA Cline Prize; LASA provides them with an annual accounting of the use of funds. Unhappy with procedures, Sarah explained that she wants procedures in place so donors know what will happen to their money.

Jurgen Buchenau thanked Sarah for her thoughts and explained that the amendments she had presented raised larger questions about the Constitution and Bylaws. Several problems limit the effectiveness of the current document, for example: a) there is no succession plan for General Committee members or a Vice President unable to continue to serve; b) contradictory and unclear language regarding amendments, c) similarly contradictory language concerning the election of Regional and Topical Committee officers; and d) outdated language regarding the duties of the President and reimbursement practices. Jurgen explained that the governing documents of other organizations such as the AHA and CLAH are more streamlined, and that the organization needs to distinguish between 1) the Constitution, 2) Bylaws; and 3) policies that govern financial and other matters. Jurgen proposed that instead of considering the more than 30 amendments at this meeting, a new Constitutional Committee be created to overhaul the Constitution and Bylaws, and that advancement policies be approved to address Sarah's concerns.

A long and productive discussion ensued, with the following highlights offered. Bianca Premo expressed her appreciation for the letter that accompanied amendments. The CLAH needs to be clear with donors about the use of donated funds. However, Bianca also explained that the CLAH is different from LASA (and even more so, universities) in that the organization is tied to the AHA. The annual meeting—and especially the luncheon and cocktail reception are very expensive but integral parts of our meeting and need support from endowment. While LASA has staff, the CLAH relies on volunteer labor and a graduate assistant. Bianca hopes that going forward, no one will feel disappointed in the lack of financial transparency. Sarah then explained the rationale for the possible new name “Organization of Latin American Historians.” Matthew O’Hara inquired what the General Committee might accomplish at this meeting: talk as a group and then charge a subcommittee, or approve some of the proposals tonight? Lara Putnam stressed the need to balance financial transparency and accountability with agility. What should be in the constitution, and what needs to be in gift agreements, procedures, and templates? Ben Vinson agreed with this general point in that the organization needs maximum agility and flexibility, as well as a committee on the Constitution/Bylaws and carefully crafted gift agreements that can address Sarah’s concerns. Jerry Dávila thanked Erika for the rapid implementation of the Chile-Río de la Plata book prize (now Susan Socolow-Lyman Johnson Prize). We should not have to tell donors that it they have to wait until our next meeting, which occurs only once per year, and our experience with Skype meetings was not positive. Therefore,

the Executive Committee is the right vehicle to deliberate advancement efforts. Tatiana Seijas stated that the discussion made her think about the limited extent to which General Committee members take part in decisions. Should there be a subcommittee to deal with donors? Graduate students do not really know what CLAH does. We need to be more inclusive and ask the question why there is a CLAH. John Schwaller suggested that the colleagues identified for the Stewardship Committee last time can work on policies and procedures. In his recollection, all of the endowment money was comingled shortly after the Cline donation and could no longer be separated. At that point, the Cabrera funds amounted 90% of the endowment (before then, dues funded prizes). Jerry and John tried to untangle the funds but could not do it, thus decided to consider endowment as a corpus. The CLAH could do differently for new endowments. Jerry stated that at the beginning of the millennium, the endowment was pieced together from various funds in various venues to a single TIAA-CREF fund. One of the main differences from LASA and other organizations is that we do not charge a fee to attend conference! Bianca replied that our organization is undergoing a massive amount of change and needs to respond to this change. What are we doing to respond to the needs of the younger generation? How do we serve them? This discussion got derailed by trying to figure out the prize issue. Are only book prizes meaningful? There are many other ways of engagement with the profession and historians. We need General Committee to figure out where we are going. As an example, Sarah mentioned that she suggested funding travel to meeting for ABDs or assistant professors. Bianca replied that these were great questions for our needs assessment.

Ben Vinson made the following motion:

- Separate from the constitution the questions around gifts and advancement and place the management of this in the hands of the executive committee
- Organize a development or advancement committee to advise the executive committee throughout the year
- Organize a constitutional committee that will draft a revision of the constitution that focuses on enduring organizational functions as well as delineate the purview of the constitution, bylaws, and policies and procedures.

John Schwaller seconded the motion.

More discussion ensued. As a guest of the meeting, Rachel O'Toole suggested that the Visioning Committee has to work with the proposed newly created committees simultaneously. Bianca suggested that we could call the Visioning Committee the Centennial or Future Committee. John reminded the group that a strategic plan is a precondition for fundraising. Jerry inquired about the distinction between the Visioning and Development committees. Which one is writing policies and procedures? Bianca asked if can we involve Regional Committees in Visioning. Matthew suggested that the CLAH set aside 30 minutes per RegCom panel to talk about visioning. One member suggested that we might organize a CLAH panel on the future of the CLAH? Tatiana volunteered for the Visioning Committee, and John Schwaller said that he and Barbara Tenenbaum would work on advancement. Jurgen Buchenau agreed to help lead the constitutional revisions. An anonymous note written by one of the guests mentioned the need to involve graduate students in these committees, and there was a favorable reaction to this suggestion

The motion on the table carried unanimously.

Bianca recognized Lara's exceptional service.

Lara Putnam adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm

IV. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED OR APPOINTED

On December 7, 2019, Co-Executive Secretary Jürgen Buchenau presented the results of balloting by CLAH members for two new members of the General Committee, as well as new secretaries of the Regional and Thematic Committees to President Bianca Premo and Vice President Ben Vinson for their verification as per the CLAH Constitution. The verified members-elect are:

General Committee (two-year term):

Eileen Findlay, American University

David Carey, Loyola University (Maryland)

Regional/Thematic Committee: (elected to two-year terms, first year as secretary, second as chair)

Andean Studies Committee: Nicole Pacino, University of Alabama-Huntsville

Atlantic World Studies Committee: Norah Gharala, University of Houston

Borderlands/Frontiers Committee: Natalie Mendoza, University of Colorado

Brazilian Studies Committee: Gillian McGillivray, York University

Caribbean Studies Committee: Kaysha Corinealdi, Emerson College

Central American Studies Committee: Jordana Dym, Skidmore College

Colonial Studies Committee: Adriana Chira, Emory University

Chile/Río de la Plata Studies Committee: María de los Angeles Picone, Boston College

Gran Colombian Studies Committee: Shawn van Ausdal, Universidad de los Andes

Mexican Studies Committee: Gladys McCormick, Syracuse University

Teaching and Teaching Materials Committee: Casey Lurtz, Johns Hopkins University

These names are submitted to the General Committee for certification as required by the CLAH Constitution.

The General Committee is also asked to approve the President's and Vice President's nominations for the following committees:

2020 Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee: Karen Graubart (chair), Matthew O'Hara, Alex Aviña

Program Committee: Carmen Soliz (2020 chair), Thomas Rogers (2021 chair), Frances Ramos

2020 Prize Committees:

Distinguished Service Award: Brodwyn Fischer (chair), Eric Zolov, Reid Andrews

Bolton-Johnson Memorial Prize: Fabricio Prado (chair), Peter Guardino, Christina Ramos

James R. Scobie Memorial Awards: José Ragas (chair), Rachel Grace Newman, Bonnie Lucero

Paul Vanderwood Prize: Dana Velasco Murillo (chair), Anne Eller, Paul Ramírez

Antonine Tibesar Prize: Paula Alonso (chair), Robert Schwaller, Danielle Terrazas Williams

James A. Robertson Memorial Prize: Michele Reid-Vasquez (chair), Cristina Soriano, Juan José Pérez Meléndez

Lydia Cabrera Awards: Matt Childs (chair), Mariola Espinosa, Lillian Guerra

Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award: Sherwin Bryant (chair), Justin Wolfe, Karoline Cook

Warren Dean Memorial Prize in Brazilian History: Mariana Dantas (chair), Gregory Childs, Brian Owensby

María Elena Martínez Prize: Paul Eiss (chair), John Chuchiak, Nora Jaffary

Susan Socolow-Lyman Johnson Prize: Jody Pavilack (chair), Eduardo Elena, Julia Sarreal

V. Constitution

Adopted 1962, revised 1994 and 2020.

ARTICLE I—Name

Section 1.

The name of this organization is THE CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY (hereafter Conference).

ARTICLE II—Purpose

Section 1.

The Conference shall be devoted to general educational purposes and shall always act to remain qualified as a charitable and educational corporation exempt from federal income tax as specified under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may be from time to time amended.

Section 2.

The specific objectives of the Conference are to foster the study and teaching of the history of Latin America and the Caribbean and its people, and to encourage the diffusion of knowledge about this topic.

Section 3.

In furtherance of these objectives, the Conference shall:

- a) prepare programs and sessions on Latin America and the Caribbean and its people at the annual CLAH meeting held in conjunction with that of the American Historical Association, including a luncheon meeting;*
- b) co-sponsor, with H-Net, the electronic listserv for Latin American history, H- LATAM;*
- c) within the American Historical Association and the discipline of History as a whole, represent the interests of historians of Latin America and the Caribbean;*
- d) take whatever action deemed desirable for furthering the interests of the Conference*

ARTICLE III—Membership

Section 1.

Membership in the Conference shall be open to all persons interested in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean and its people. Institutions as well as individuals may be members.

Section 2.

Active membership shall date from receipt by the Executive Director of the annual dues fixed by the Council, and shall continue so long as such annual dues are paid. Annual dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year to which they may apply. Any member whose dues are in arrears for one year may be dropped from the rolls.

Section 3.

Only current members shall have the right to vote, (or) hold office, serve on committees, and participate in the Conference program.

Section 4.

The Executive Director shall keep an up-to-date list of members. It will be available on the CLAH website.

ARTICLE IV—Officers

Section 1.

The officers shall be President, Vice President, and Executive Director. The President and Vice President are elected positions. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Council for a five-year term, which may be renewed by decision of the Council.

Section 2.

No one who has been President of the Conference may be re-elected Vice President to succeed to that office. The President and the Vice President shall hold office for two calendar years, dating from ratification of election results by the Council.

Section 3.

The President shall carry out duties and perform functions customarily attached to that office and those which may be authorized or prescribed by the Council. Among other matters, the President shall:

- a) Preside at meetings of the CLAH and of the Council;*
- b) Appoint, with the approval of the Council, the Chairs and members of the Nominating Committee, the prize Committees, and special or ad hoc committees;*
- c) Represent (or provide for representation of) the Conference at organizations, meetings, and negotiations of interest to the Conference.*

Section 4.

The Vice President shall assist the President and shall substitute for the President in case of absence or inability to fill duties. The Vice President shall become President if that office, through any cause, becomes vacant. The Vice President shall become President after two years following election as Vice President.

Section 5.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice President, the Council shall elect one of its elected members to succeed to that office for the remainder of the term.

Section 6.

The Executive Director shall keep the records of the Conference and shall supervise the Secretariat, under the general direction of the Council. The Executive Director shall perform the specific duties assigned in the By-laws, and any others as directed by the Council. In the absence or disability of both the President and Vice President, the Executive Director shall temporarily discharge the duties of those offices, but shall not succeed to the office of President if both those offices, for whatever reason, fall vacant. In such event, the Council shall prescribe the procedure by which the two offices will be filled for the unexpired period of the terms. At the discretion of the Council, the office of Executive Director may be discharged by one or two individuals; if two individuals share the position, they shall have clearly delineated and separate responsibilities.

ARTICLE V—Council and Executive Committee**Section 1.**

There shall be a Council of the Conference. It shall conduct and supervise the business of the Conference, manage the property, and care for the general interests of the Conference, and shall be deemed its Board of Directors under the articles of incorporation of the Conference.

Section 2.

The following officers and persons shall be voting members (ex officio) of the Council: The retiring President of the Conference for two calendar years following retirement; President; Vice President; Executive Director; Editor, Hispanic American Historical Review; Editor, The Americas; Editor, H-LATAM. In case there are multiple individuals occupying one of the aforementioned editorial positions or for the office of Executive Director, only one of these individuals shall be a voting member, to be designated by the entity in question. That designation may change annually.

Section 3.

The Council shall also have six elected voting members, each serving two-year terms and not subject to re-election for two consecutive terms. Annually, three of the six elected members shall be elected to and three shall retire from the Council.

Section 4.

In addition to specific duties and powers here enumerated, the Council shall establish and supervise such committees, commissions, and boards as it deems necessary, establish prizes and the terms and administration thereof, supervise the annual programs of the Conference, present to the Conference proposals and projects for strengthening and expanding its programs, ratify election results, discuss and approve the Secretariat's annual budget, and coordinate the activities of Regional and Topical Sections of the Conference.

Section 5.

The Council shall hold a business meeting to convene at the time of the Conference's annual meeting, open to the entire Conference membership. Only Council members may vote.

Section 6.

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Council to transact necessary business in the interim between business meetings of the Council. It shall consist of the retiring President, the President, Vice President, and Executive Director. The Executive Committee is empowered to carry out policies approved by the Council, to which it shall report its actions for ratification.

Section 7.

Actions taken by the Council or the Executive Committee outside of the annual meeting shall be recorded by the Executive Director as addenda to the minutes of the preceding Council meeting.

ARTICLE VI—Regional and Topical Sections

Section 1.

The purpose of the Regional and Topical Sections (hereafter Sections) within the Conference is to promote scholarship and teaching germane to their respective regions and topics.

Section 2.

In furtherance of this objective, the Sections shall enjoy the maximum amount of latitude in conducting their activities, consistent with the purpose and objectives of the parent organization.

Section 3.

All members of Sections are members of the Conference on Latin American History and must, therefore, meet all requirements enumerated in Article III of this Constitution.

Section 4.

Section officers are elected as part of the general CLAH ballot. The following procedures will be followed in all Regional and Topical Committee elections:

a) Sections will elect one new officer per year, who will serve one year as Secretary followed by one year as Chair of the Section. For this election, Section members may submit nominations for the election ballot. The Executive Director will also ask the current Section officers for nominations, sharing with those officers a list of current Section members.

- b) Balloting shall occur in conjunction with the conference elections each fall.*
- c) Sections may elect or appoint officers in addition to the Chair and Secretary.*

Section 5.

Sections shall submit suggestions for programs to the Program Committee of the Conference.

ARTICLE VII—H-LATAM

Section 1.

H-LATAM is an international forum for the scholarly discussion of Latin American History. It is a member of the H-Net Humanities and Social Sciences Online initiative. As part of the relationship between CLAH and H-LATAM, one of the editors of H-LATAM will sit on the CLAH Council and the President, Vice-President and Executive Director of CLAH will sit on the board of H-LATAM.

Section 2.

There shall also be an H-LATAM editorial board, jointly sponsored by CLAH and H-NET. The H-LATAM Board will consist of the CLAH Council. The duties of the H-LATAM board will include approving the appointment of editors and book review editors of H-LATAM and advise on other matters that may arise associated with H-LATAM as stipulated by the Constitution and By Laws of H-NET. The Editorial board will submit yearly reports, by December, to the Council.

ARTICLE VIII—Elections

Section 1.

There shall be an annual election for three members of the Council and Section officers; and a biennial election for the Vice President. At least one of the elected members of the Council shall be a graduate student or non-tenure-stream historian; in addition, the Nominating Committee shall ensure that the ballot reflects the CLAH's diverse constituency.

Section 2.

Election shall be by majority of ballots cast by eligible active members via electronic or paper polling, tabulated by the Executive Director and verified by the President at least one month before the annual business meeting of the Conference. The election results shall be ratified by the Council, following which those certified as elected shall be considered the officers for the ensuing calendar year and shall assume office at the end of the annual (January) business meeting of the Conference.

Section 3.

Each year, the President shall name from members of the Conference a Nominating Committee of three persons, one of whom shall be designated as Chair, to prepare a slate of officers for the ensuing calendar year. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall inform the President of the proposed slate by September 15, and the President shall transmit the proposed slate to the

Executive Director, who shall place it on an electronic ballot. The ballot shall be distributed by the Executive Director to members eligible to vote, on or about October 15. Ballots submitted by December 1 will be counted.

Section 4.

Any member eligible for election to an office specified in Section 1 of this Article may be nominated for that office by a petition bearing the signatures of at least 20 members in good standing. Provided that such petition is received not later than October 1 by the Executive Director, the candidates nominated thereon will be included on the ballot.

ARTICLE IX—Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1.

This Constitution takes effect on January 4, 2020, pending a vote of the Conference membership upon the recommendation of the Council.

Section 2.

The By-laws shall be considered a part of this Constitution and are adopted upon ratification of the Constitution. Individual By-Laws may be created or amended by a vote of the Council.

Section 3.

Any member of the Council, or a minimum of 30 members of the Conference, may at any time suggest in writing to the Executive Director proposed amendments or revisions of the Constitution or the By-laws; such proposal shall include reasons and justification for amendment. The Executive Director shall circulate such proposals to the Council and shall make provision for consideration thereof by the Council at its next meeting.

Section 4.

The Council shall direct the Executive Director to conduct a vote of the full CLAH membership regarding amendments to the Constitution endorsed by majority vote of the Board or bearing the signatures of at least 30 CLAH members. To become valid, amendments to the Constitution must be ratified by a majority of members responding to this canvass.

Section 5.

Changes, additions, deletions, or amendments of By-laws become valid when voted by a majority present at the business meeting of the Council.

BY-LAWS OF THE CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

1. Dues:

The annual dues shall be payable to the Conference in an amount and manner specified by the Executive Director. Dues are due and payable January 1 of the year to which they apply.

2. Reimbursement of Expenses:

The President of the Conference or their designee may authorize reimbursement for documented expenses in connection with Conference business. No member on the Conference shall receive fees for professional services except under specific authorization by the Council.

3. Duties of the Executive Secretary:

Under Article IV, Section 5, specific duties of the Executive Director shall include:

- a) Collection of annual dues, preparation of a list of members, and maintenance of current membership records;*
- b) Recording the minutes of Council meetings, and publishing them in the Spring Newsletter upon approval by the Council*
- c) Acting as Corporation Agent, maintaining proper fiscal records, and preparing such reports as are required of the Conference as a Corporation;*
- d) Rendering an annual fiscal account of Conference finances for the previous year as well as a proposed budget for the following fiscal year to the members at the annual business meeting;*
- e) Preparation and distribution of a Newsletter at least twice yearly (Spring, Fall), with special issues as required;*
- f) Supervise the archival records of the Conference, and collect and deposit in these members relevant official documents and correspondence;*
- g) Aid in making local arrangements for the annual meetings and sessions of the Conference at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association;*
- h) Disbursement of prizes and awards, reimbursements, and other obligations of the Conference;*
- i) Preparation, distribution, and tabulation of ballots of annual elections;*
- j) Circulation of proposed constitutional amendments.*

4. Prizes and Awards:

For each prize established by the Council there shall be a prize committee of at least three persons, appointed by the President with the approval of the Council. The Chair of each prize committee shall report the choice of his/her committee, providing in writing the reasons for that choice. The Council shall set terms and stipends of prizes and awards, as well as policies governing the stewardship of gifts supporting these prizes and awards

5. Regular or Standing Committees:

Under Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution, the Council has established the following Standing Committees:

- a) Program Committee for the current year (including one member who will serve as Chair of the committee the following year)*
- b) Nominating Committee.*

The Program Committee is to be named by the Executive Director, while the Nominating Committee is to be named by the President, both with approval of the Council;

6. Continuing Committees:

To carry out approved programs, the Council has created the following Regional and Topical Sections, whose membership, activities, and actions shall continue as originally specified by the Council, under Article VI of the Constitution (listed in the order of creation):

- a) Teaching and Teaching Materials;*
- b) Borderlands/Frontiers Studies;*
- c) Brazilian Studies;*
- d) Mexican Studies;*
- e) Gran Colombian Studies;*
- f) Andean Studies;*
- g) Caribbean Studies;*
- h) Central American Studies;*
- i) Chile-Rio de la Plata Studies;*
- j) Colonial Studies;*
- k) Atlantic World Studies.*

The Council may create, rename, or dissolve sections pending ratification by the CLAH membership via electronic ballot.

7. Procedures in the Event of Dissolution:

Upon dissolution of the Conference, the Council shall distribute its assets for one or more exempt purposes of its choosing, within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

VI. CLAH Policy 1: Endowment, Gifts, Prizes, and Awards Approved January 2020

I. Purpose and Scope

- 1) The purpose of this policy is to govern the management of the CLAH endowment, gifts, prizes, and awards, to ensure responsible management, accountability, and transparency to the organization.
- 2) The Executive Director manages the day-to-day financial operations of the conference as well as its bank account, which is designated for current operating expenses. Throughout the year, the Executive Director will work with the remaining members of the CLAH Executive Committee on issues concerning the endowment, prizes, and awards. On policy issues and for the purpose of reviewing the annual financial report, the Executive Director and Executive Committee will consult the Council, which serves as the financial oversight body of the Conference.

II. The CLAH Endowment

- 1) The purposes of the CLAH Endowment are twofold:
 - a) To support CLAH prizes and awards, and
 - b) To provide financial stability during fluctuations in the economy
- 2) Each year, the CLAH Council may authorize a “draw” of a certain percentage of the endowment, based on a four-year average of the size of endowment and the needs and priorities of the organization.
- 3) As of the promulgation of this policy, the CLAH endowment contractually supports the prizes and awards listed in section III, article 2. Because prize funds originally donated for one specific purpose were consolidated during the 1990s, the CLAH does not maintain discrete accounts for each prize within the endowment. Based on equity considerations and our best knowledge of fund contributions, the CLAH has adopted a tiered structure ensuring similar awards and prizes carry a similar financial reward, aware that the greatest reward in receiving a prize or award rests in recognition by one’s peers (see section III, article 3).

III. Prizes and Awards

- 1) The CLAH provides a number of prizes and awards to recognize exceptional achievements in the field of Latin American History. Prizes recognize published scholarship, while awards recognize work in progress as well as career accomplishments.
- 2) The CLAH endowment currently supports the following prizes and awards:
 - a) Distinguished Service Award, annually;
 - b) Herbert E. Bolton-John J. Johnson Memorial Prize, annually;
 - c) James A. Robertson Memorial Prize, annually;
 - d) Paul Vanderwood Prize, annually;

- e) Howard F. Cline Memorial Prize, biennially;
- f) James R. Scobie Memorial Awards, annually
- g) Antonine Tibesar Prize, annually;
- h) Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award, annually;
- i) Warren Dean Memorial Prize in Brazilian History, annually;
- j) Lydia Cabrera Award(s), annually;
- k) Elinor Kerr Melville Prize, biennially;
- l) María Elena Martínez Prize, annually; and
- m) Susan M. Socolow-Lyman L. Johnson Prize, biennially.

In an ideal world, the entire revenue from the CLAH endowment will be used for paying prizes and awards; however, in the event of shortfall in any single year, the number of Scobie awards—which have not been supported by a specific large gift to the organization—may be reduced if financial circumstances require it.

3) Prize Amounts

Due to the consolidation of prize funds in the 1990s, the CLAH does not manage discrete endowment accounts for each of these existing prizes and awards. Thus, award amounts are not based on the performance of the funds that helped establish each of them. In addition, the CLAH seeks to maintain broad equity among its specialized book and article prizes, and distinguish them from a) the top book prize rewarding the best book in Latin American history—the Bolton-Johnson Prize; b) the CLAH's top overall honor, the Distinguished Service Award; c) awards supporting scholarly research, and particularly the Cabrera Awards, which have enjoyed generous funding by means of the largest single gift that the CLAH has ever received. With this in mind, the Council has set the following amounts for currently existing prizes and awards:

- a. Distinguished Service Award, \$1,500.
- b. Herbert E. Bolton-John J. Johnson Memorial Prize, \$1,000.
- c. Other book and article prizes, \$500.
- d. James R. Scobie Memorial Awards, \$1,500; the Conference will fund as many of these as endowment revenue allows.
- e. Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award, \$1,000.
- f. Lydia Cabrera Award(s), up to \$5,000 total.

The Council may change these allocations at its discretion by amending this policy.

IV. Future Contributions

The CLAH enthusiastically welcomes contributions from its members and other interested persons for new purposes beyond the prizes listed in Section III, Article 2. To ensure good stewardship, the following procedures will apply, and they will be communicated to everyone making a gift or inquiring about making a gift.

- 1) Smaller gifts paid as part of the annual membership drive will accrue to the benefit of the overall endowment whether or not they are given in honor of the prizes and awards listed in

Section III, Article 2. Such gifts will be recognized, with their designation, in the semiannual Newsletter.

- 2) The CLAH may ask for or receive contributions for a specific non-endowed purpose (i.e., a “sinking” fund that depletes as money is withdrawn), in which case the contribution will be added to the CLAH’s operating account and be used for that purpose alone. Such gifts may be solicited and/or approved by the Executive Committee, consulting with Regional and Topical Section chairs or other stakeholders as appropriate.
- 3) For a gift to the endowment that will create a new purpose implying a permanent and recurring obligation of the CLAH, the following procedures will apply:
 - a. The prospective donor(s) should first contact the CLAH President and Executive Director to discuss their ideas for the gift. The President and Executive Director will then get preliminary input from the Executive Committee before seeking approval from the Council as a final step of acceptance of the gift.
 - b. The Council will assess future prize or award proposals at any point in time during the year based on three criteria:
 - i. The prize field must be broad enough to ensure a significant number of competitors for the prize and candidates for the prize committee.
 - ii. The proposed prize must be endowed with sufficient capital to ensure that it can be funded without drawing from the operating funds of the CLAH. Specifically, new prizes can be initiated only if the fund supporting them is at least \$12,000.
 - iii. Those establishing the prize must be open to the idea of supporting the future of the profession, allowing provision to support research grants or fellowships for graduate students and junior scholars in the prize field, in the event that its endowment eventually generates sufficient funds to exceed the maximum amount for the prize.
 - c. The CLAH will charge reasonable direct and indirect costs to each new prize fund. Costs are calculated at 25 percent of the value of the prize. For example, if the Council has set the endowment draw at 4 percent, then the amount available to fund the prize is 3 percent.
 - d. With the help of the CLAH Executive Director, the donor(s) and the CLAH President will draft and sign a gift agreement outlining the use of the funds.

V. Publication and Amendments

This policy will be published on the CLAH website and in the Newsletter and may be amended by a discussion and vote of the Council.

VII. CLAH Committee Session Reports

1. Andean Studies Committee Meeting

On Cross-border Histories of Water in the Andes

Jose Carlos de la Puente, of Texas State, chaired the panel, which convened on the evening of Saturday, January 4, 2020

Just as watershed and waterways both create and complicate borders, this panel brought together an array of scholars from different geographical and methodological approaches to Andean Studies, asking questions that complicate both periodization and national histories.

Sarah Hines, from the University of Oklahoma, discussed struggles over water access in Bolivia from the late nineteenth century to the present, setting these in context with her forthcoming book *Water for All: Revolution, Property, and Community in Twentieth-Century Bolivia*. While Bolivia, and Cochabamba particularly, are most famous for the turn-of-the-millennium water wars that prefaced Evo Morales' rise to power, Hines traces the long history of these conflicts at the level of community and nation. Water dispossession, in this case, became a crucial factor in struggles over indigenous identity in Cochabamba, and informed the post-1952 struggles over power and legitimacy with the Bolivian state.

Javier Puente, of Smith College, covered three related topics: In the first, he cast the Peruvian Andes as a waterscape, with pre-Columbian roots, colonial interventions, and modern alterations. He suggested that modern Andean communities who make use of pre-Columbian knowledge and colonial infrastructure cross chronological borders. Building on this waterscape, he suggested avenues for research into his current work on the case of El Niño, highlighting the variable meanings of floods and droughts for different regions and peoples, and the making of both domestic and international geopolitics of catastrophe. Finally, using the case study of water privatization in Chile, Puente situated contemporary protests as struggles against the legacy of neoliberalism and predicted water wars that are yet to come.

María de los Ángeles Picone, of Boston College, added a spatial dimension to the conversation and expanded the field of Andean Studies to include northern Patagonia. Building on her current research, Dr. Picone suggested that waterways played key roles in Chilean-Argentine border negotiations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Picone argued that authorities used watersheds to manage cross border relations but that the physical space of the terrain altered and limited these conversations. In so doing, she emphasized the way terrain and water help create cross-border regional identities.

2. Atlantic World Studies Committee

Chair: Jesse Cromwell

Secretary: Erin Stone

The Atlantic World Studies Committee met on Saturday, January 4, 2020 in New York, New York as part of the annual meeting of the Conference on Latin American History and the American Historical Association. In their roles as chair and secretary of the session, Jesse Cromwell and Erin Stone convened a panel of young scholars who presented research emphasizing new thematic directions in the Atlantic history of Latin America and the Caribbean. These papers covered multiple empires in the Americas during the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, but all broadly examined new histories in governance and law in the Atlantic.

Karen Racine (University of Guelph) presented on the wider impact of Mexican Emperor Agustín Iturbide's five-month exile in England in 1824. While he resided in England for a very short period, Racine argued that his stay had great ramifications for both Mexico and England. Iturbide's time and experiences in England fed his beliefs in an English style of governance for Mexico. Iturbide eagerly participated in debates on governance and political reform, sparking changes on both sides of the Atlantic. Racine described Iturbide as a "lightening rod" for reform. But Iturbide was not satisfied living in England, and his interactions there only further built his resolve to return to Mexico. Racine showed how Iturbide procured support for his return, how he promised beneficial trade agreements and the swift repayment of debt owed the British. And some conservatives in Mexico also supported his return. So, with help and support from both sides of the Atlantic, Iturbide sailed for Mexico, where he was promptly executed by waiting liberals. Here Racine also highlighted how quickly information travelled across the Atlantic World, between and across empires even, during the early years of the 19th century.

Fernanda Bretones (University of Florida) discussed the history of escaped slaves finding refuge in Spanish territory. However, she complicated the traditional narrative of Spanish slave sanctuary laws by investigating policies over time and across different colonies. Bretones argued that each slave or slaves received different treatment from the 17th century until the late 18th and early 19th centuries when the Spanish Crown created a specific religious sanctuary policy to promote and protect its Caribbean colonies. Much of the policy came from older laws of sanctuary and slavery, which were constantly negotiated and shaped by slaves themselves. Thus, Bretones pointed out that the formal sanctuary policy of the 18th and 19th century was in many ways created by African slaves in previous centuries. By expanding her research to incorporate three centuries of laws and governance, Bretones shows the impact that slaves had on Spanish colonial policy. Finally, by focusing on the development of Spanish laws in the Caribbean, Bretones highlights the place of the Caribbean in the larger Atlantic World.

Aaron Alejandro Olivas (Texas A&M International University) offered a revisionist history of the Age of Revolutions, arguing that more colonists favored absolutism over republicanism at the end of the 18th century. In fact, pro Bourbon factions outnumbered pro Hapsburg in most of Latin America. Olivas proved his thesis with ample evidence, for example by showing that the Bourbon Crown bestowed huge amounts of honors and titles to Latin American subjects. Half of all titles given in the 18th century were bestowed by King Phillip V, including the first titles ever

awarded to Cuban colonists. By enforcing Crown power and policy, Phillip also took a great deal of power from the Council of the Indies, something that answered the complaints and wishes of most colonists. They could now deal directly with the Crown, the source of power. Olivas then illustrated different types of disloyalty during the wars of Spanish independence, both against Napoleon and locally in Latin America. These ranged from outright military action to sabotage or inaction. Olivas found that while absolutism was losing favor in Europe, it was favored by most colonial subjects. This complicates traditional scholarship on the larger Age of Revolutions.

Max Deardorff (University of Florida) presented a paper examining Christianity and citizenship in Nueva Granada. In particular, he looked at the legalities of the Republic of Indians vs. the Republic of Spaniards within a religious context. On paper the two republics tried to divide the population for easier juridical enforcement and governance, but one group, indios ladinos, complicated the matter. Indios ladinos stood at the boundary between the two republics. The question was in which group did the indios ladinos belong? Should they live in the city or according to Indian customs? And what would be their fate, and the success of their Christian conversions, be if they had to live with “savage” Indians? On the other hand, would the indios ladinos be taken advantage of or cause disorder if they lived amongst the Spaniards unsupervised? To solve these quandaries Deardorff looks to the three key traits of Spanish citizenship: membership in a con fraternity, Christian marriage, and home ownership. By the end of the 16th century indios ladinos had to prove their place through these tests in order to show their loyalty to the Crown and Christian citizenship. By doing so they could become a part of the Republic of Spaniards. Through his research Deardorff complicates the system of the Republic of Indios and Republic of Spaniards while also showing the links between governance and citizenship. He also raises questions regarding freedom, citizenship, and race/ethnicity in the colonial Atlantic.

At the conclusion of the papers presented by Rice, Bretones, Olivos, and Deardorff, a lively question and answer session ensued. The discussion covered topics as varied as reducciones, definitions of absolutism, and jazz. The panel wrapped up at 9:00 PM.

3. Borderlands and Frontiers Studies Committee

Chair: Raúl A. Ramos, University of Houston

Secretary: Natalie Mendoza, University of Colorado, Boulder

The Borderlands and Frontiers Committee convened at the AHA in New York on January 4, 2020 hosting a panel of three papers under the title, “At the Heart of the Borderlands: Africans and Afro-descendants on the Edge of Colonial Spanish America.” Cameron D. Jones (California Polytechnic State University) chaired the session, which included three panelists, Cameron D. Jones, Christina Villarreal, from the University of Texas, Austin, and Charles E. Beatty Medina, from the University of Toledo. Raúl A. Ramos, from the University of Houston served as comment for the panel.

The panel was assembled through the efforts of Cameron Jones, with the intention of organizing an edited volume on the subject. All three essays explored silences and absences in the archival record to reconstruct the frontier colonial world. This allows historians to account for the

presence and impact of Afro descendant peoples in the colony. The essays open possibilities needed to make sense of what otherwise appears as an aberration.

The session began with Villarreal's paper, "Landscapes of the Self-Emancipated: Mapping Asylum in New Spain's Northern Gulf Coast." In the essay, Villarreal deploys the notion of rival geographies to map notions and possibilities of freedom onto the New Orleans hinterlands. She makes the case of how free and unfree black people engaged and shaped world around them by taking advantage of ambiguous spaces and colonial gaps. In her essay the frontier is reimagined as a emancipatory space for enslaved Afro descendant peoples. Charles Beatty Medina then turned to another liminal region involving similar dynamics in his essay, "Africans on the Atlantic Borderlands of Early Colonial Quito." In he describes maroon coastal communities in Peru, also located at the margins of the colonial regime. The communities in the Esmeraldas region took advantage of the place free from the watchful eye of Spanish authorities, where they could meet, form communities, and take root.

Finally, Jones's paper, "They Call Themselves People of Reason": Afro-Descendant Soldiers in Early California, 1768–1848." describes the politics of *afromexicano* identification to extrapolate their presence in the California frontier. In his paper, Jones describes fluid and malleable identities on the borderlands of the Spanish colony. He suggests these *afromexicanos* were playing a long game of entering into the regional elite for many of these Californios.

The three papers describe the production of such social space. In the case of Villarreal's Gulf Coast emancipatory space, there's a strong indication of the imaginary space both within and outside of various colonial regimes. Beatty Medina, likewise, describes a coastal space, also outside of the metropole, where new identities could emerge, on the margins of colonial authority. Finally, Jones uncovers the use of language, to reimagine social status and belonging on the California frontier.

4. Brazilian Studies Committee

Chair: Heather F. Roller

Secretary: Gillian McGillivray

The Brazilian Studies Committee convened at the AHA in New York City on January 4, 2020 for a roundtable discussion entitled "Understudied Geographies in Brazilian History: A Methodological Conversation." The participants were four scholars whose work centers lesser studied regions of Brazil: Martha S. Santos (University of Akron), Oscar de la Torre (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), Thais Rezende Da Silva De Sant'ana, (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Yuko Miki (Forham University). The Secretary, Heather Roller (Colgate University) introduced the roundtable participants and facilitated the roundtable in place of the Chair, Okezi Otovo, who was unable to attend.

Each participant briefly introduced their research, before turning to the discussion of several methodological and historiographical questions. The first had to do with field experiences: What methodological challenges have participants faced as historians working in these less-studied regions? After describing her field research in Ceará state archives, Santos emphasized the

importance of spending time in the *sertão*, too. Sant'ana noted that many researchers are reluctant to visit the archives in Manaus (Amazonas), hoping instead to answer their questions about the region through the archives of Rio de Janeiro; she made a compelling case for immersing oneself in the city itself and its archives. De la Torre described working in the small archives and *cartórios* of Pará state, which he said were far richer in their collections than one might expect; research conditions ranged widely, however, from professionalized archives offering on-site childcare, to collections of documents stored in piles beside motorcycles and other goods requisitioned by local police. With regard to state archives in Minas Gerais, Bahia, and Espírito Santo, Miki discussed possibilities for finding black and indigenous voices in unexpected places.

Participants then discussed how histories of understudied regions prompt us to revise our presumptions about major topics and themes in Brazilian history, such as the relationship between state and society, the reach of the imperial state, or the experiences of abolition and freedom. De la Torre noted, for example, that independence looked very different from the perspective of northern Brazil; the process could be said to have lasted through the Cabanagem Rebellion, the largest regional uprising in the country's history. Miki discussed how her research made her attentive to the interconnected histories of black and indigenous peoples; oftentimes Brazilian histories neglect the agency of the latter, assuming them to have disappeared in the nineteenth century. Sant'ana suggested that our research can challenge the idea that ordinary people living in these lesser-studied areas were generally uninterested in (or unaware of) national government capabilities and initiatives during the so-called "Old Republic."

Finally, panelists turned to the issue of temporal scale and ways in which studying neglected regional histories can change our typical periodization of Brazilian history. The panelists noted that indigenous peoples continued to appear as historical actors in these regions, rather than being relegated to a distant colonial past. Miki, for example, reminded the audience that indigenous people were enslaved well into the nineteenth century, and that the "abolition" of indigenous slavery was in 1831, the same year as the largely ineffective abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Both continued illegally long afterwards, as we can see in the archives.

At the end, Roller invited the audience to share their own research experiences and perspectives on these questions. A lively discussion ensued, with one audience member raising the provocative question of how we define "understudied." Based on demography, one might say that Amazonia is *over studied* compared to a place like São Paulo. Roller adjourned the meeting at 7pm.

5. Central American Studies Committee Meeting

Chair: Kevin Coleman

Secretary: David Díaz-Arias

"The History of Capitalism in Central America" was the theme for this year's meeting of the Central America Section. Our Chair, Kevin Coleman, opened the meeting using his knowledge on the history of photography and representations to present his vision about new ways of studying capitalism in Central America. Coleman commented that, in the years between the

publication of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) and Karl Marx and Frederick Engels's *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), photography was invented. He stated:

the emergence of philosophical-historical accounts of the division of labor, primitive accumulation, and commodity fetishism, on the one hand, and of a practical, mechanical method for fixing images, on the other, is significant. One was a branch of thought that named a new object of analysis, the economy (a combination of the Greek oikos, household, and nomos, law), and the other a branch of popular mechanics and chemistry that sought, to use the terms of the day, to arrest nature by making copies that she herself appeared to trace without the clumsy intervention of a human hand (the "writing with light" that is photo-graphy).

Coleman introduced himself as a historian of Central America who entered a historiography that always kept class as key category of analysis: access to land, wages, and the right to join labor unions have been key themes in the history of modern Central America. Based on that, Coleman's hope for the roundtable was to reflect back on the development of our work over the years. He then turned it over to our invited panelists: Jordana Dym, Darío A. Euraque, Lowell Gudmundson, Erik Ching, and Joaquín M. Chávez.

Dario A. Euraque, from Trinity College in Hartford, discussed the need to individualize the historiography of capitalism and capital formation in Central America by focusing on the neglected genre of historical biography. He talked about a two-volume biography Rafael Lopez Padilla (1875-1963), a Honduran banana plantation cultivator and exporter, that he has worked on for years. After studying engineering in London, Lopez Padilla settled in San Pedro Sula, in the heart of the banana growing Caribbean region of Honduras, probably in 1900. By the 1920s Lopez Padilla enjoyed a friendship and investments with Samuel Zemurray (1877-1961), the "infamous U.S. banana baron" with plantations in Caribbean Honduras, most often secured via corrupt contracts to secure lands and avoid taxes. Lopez Padilla was intimately privy to Zemurray's fierce competition with the United Fruit Co. for control of the banana export business in Honduras at that time. Zemurray sold the Cuyamel Fruit Co. to the United Fruit Co., late in 1929; between the 1930s and 1954 he became its main shareholder and President and CEO. In Lopez Padilla's private and legal archive, Euraque found a rich variety of personal and legal documents that record the life and times of a Honduran banana planter and his relations with Samuel Zemurray and most of the United Fruit Co. executives in Honduras in the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s.

Jordana Dym, from Skidmore College, mentioned that "Capitalism," as a term, reached the English language (according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*) in the 1830s, about halfway between the publication of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (1776) and Karl Marx's *Capital* (1868); but it was not until 1925 that Spain's *Academia Usual* followed suit. However, historian of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Central American history, Dym noted that core ideas familiar to both Smith and Marx were already in circulation in instructions and counter instructions prepared, respectively, by Guatemala City's *ayuntamiento* and merchants' guild in 1810-1811 for their deputy to the Cortes of Cádiz. After independence in 1821, Dym added, the ideas and vocabulary continued to circulate and influence policy makers, citing Guatemala's *Sociedad Económica* faith in 'capitalists' (an 1817 addition to the *Academia Usual*) as risk-taking, investment-growing, infrastructure-building promoters of liberty and property continued. In sum, she concluded, while Guatemala City-based leaders acknowledged their region's limited

industrial base and disagreed on the best way to achieve individual and societal prosperity, their failure to achieve this goal did not come from naïve readings or ignorance of economic theory.

Lowell Gudmundson, from Mount Holyoke College, discussed his own experiences in two very different moments when Costa Rican historians and historiography have made extensive use of the concept of capitalist. In both instances, profound social changes occurring at the time and concern for future sociopolitical pathways were motivational factors for the debates. In the first period, from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s, Costa Rica's rural society and its class structure during the mid-19th century transition to coffee culture, as well as its evolution and relevance to the 1948 Civil War and subsequent politics were clearly local historiography's central questions. Gudmundson's first monograph, *Costa Rica Before Coffee*, fit within the agrarian studies tradition, but only after he had pursued a number of 1970s-style social history projects, avoiding any return to topics involving his own rural origins or revealing his profound ignorance of and indifference toward coffee as both cultivar and consumer good. The second period involves the most recent end-of-century transition to what he referred to as a "post-neoliberal" capitalism, radically less agrarian if no less contradictory and polarizing in its social dynamics. In discussing his most recent book, *Costa Rica después del café: La era cooperativa en la historia y la memoria*, Gudmundson highlighted several examples.

Erik Ching of the Furman University looked for a central framing question in response to Coleman's questions: How do those who have money come to acquire it in el Salvador? He read the post-war memoirs from elites, which formed the basis of chapter 2 of his book *Stories of Civil War*. That narrative was remarkably consistent and in essence it is: we earned it in the marketplace, it's ours, we have a right to it, and no one is going to take it from us. The implication is that some sort of level playing field existed, they excelled in it, as anyone could have done so, and hence, we are entitled to defend our gains with violence if necessary. Ching found that behind every story of a self-made man is government subsidies, family inheritance, corruption or just dumb stupid luck. He mentioned many examples that encouraged him to think about ways we narrate and consider class creation in El Salvador.

Finally, Joaquín M. Chávez, from the University of Illinois at Chicago, talked on his recent book about intellectuals who played decisive roles in the formation of social and revolutionary movements in El Salvador in the 1960s and 1970s. He affirmed those historical actors incarnated a variety of political, cultural, and religious traditions that converged during the mobilizations of that period. Chavez described how intellectuals contributed to the formation of an historical alliance between urban militants and peasant leaders that constituted the backbone of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front or FMLN. Those intellectuals demanded the democratization of the country's political system and the formation of independent political parties. For him, everyday intellectuals in El Salvador articulated a radical, eclectic, and yet incomplete critique of capitalism in the 1960s and 1970s. That is why he finished asking: "To what extent, these conceptual limitations explain the transformation of the former insurgent intellectuals into major actors of the neoliberal democracy that emerged in El Salvador in the aftermath of the country's civil war?"

6. Chile-Río De La Plata Studies Committee

Chair: Marian Schlotterbeck

Secretary: Ángeles Picone

The Chile-Río de la Plata Section of the Conference on Latin American History held a roundtable at the American Historical Association Annual meeting in New York and discussed ongoing issues for the section. The organizers of the roundtable, Dr. Julia Sarreal, the chair of the section, and Dr. Marian Schlotterbeck, the secretary, called the roundtable “Making Connections in Chile-Río de la Plata Region: History from the Colonial Era to the 21st Century.” The panelists spoke about how overlap between temporal periods appears and does not appear both in the historiography and in their own research. While much of the conversation pointed to the value of a *longue-durée* approach, panelists also acknowledged that sometimes a more temporally focused approach is most appropriate.

We organized the roundtable to have 9 participants, including Dr. Sarreal and Dr. Marian Schlotterbeck and the incoming secretary, Ángeles Picone. The other participants included: Dr. Alex Borucki (Associate Professor at the University of California-Irvine); Amie Campos, (ABD at the University of California-San Diego); Dr. Oscar Chamosa (Associate Professor at the University of Georgia); Dr. Michael Huner (Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University); Dr. Nara Milanich (Professor at Barnard College, Columbia University); and Felice Physioc (ABD at Princeton University). Unfortunately, two of the participants were unable to attend the roundtable (Dr. Chamosa and Dr. Huner). The audience had approximately 20 people. Both the panelists and the audience included a range of academics at very different points in their careers (from graduate students to senior scholars) who focus both on different temporal period and on different geographic areas within the Chile and Río de la Plata region. Dr. Sarreal chaired the session and Dr. Schlotterbeck moderated the discussion. Dr. Borucki, who was born and raised in Uruguay, explained that college students in Argentina and Uruguay generally learn that the history of their country begins in 1880 and scant attention is paid to the colonial period. He also referred to the general split among researchers who study the colonial period and those who study the twentieth century, with historians who study the nineteenth century frequently bonding with the colonialists. Dr. Borucki pointed to the value of exploring the colonial and nineteenth century roots of particular topics, such as social unrest. Amie Campos explained that as an undergraduate history major, she was not interested in the Early Modern Period, but as a graduate student, she came to realize its relevance especially when studying indigenous peoples. Ms. Campos gave the useful analogy of how focusing only on one period is like watching a film without either the beginning or the end. For teaching, she recommended thematic courses that facilitate the exploration of change over time. Dr. Milanich focused on her personal experiences regarding temporal periods. She started by researching the colonial period as an undergraduate. Her first book was about the nineteenth century and her second book, about the twentieth century, was driven by the question: What happened next? Her research was based not on time period, but rather the focus on a particular theme. Rather than confirming continuity, her research has revealed transformation and reinforced the standard periodization. Felice Physioc highlighted that our field emphasizes change, but taking a regional approach can reveal continuities. She also reminded us not to forget the pre-Hispanic period. Physioc suggested that our field may be turning toward more dialogue between time periods; the same day, she had attended three panels with panelists working on all different time periods.

In the discussion, Dr. Schlotterbeck posed several questions to the panelists and audience that led the conversation more toward teaching. In our courses, do we find the colonial period relevant for the modern period and vice versa? Most everyone said yes. For the modern surveys, we need to provide background. For colonial courses, we need to link the material to present-day issues in order to make it relevant to students. The conversation also emphasized the value of teaching thematic courses as a way to cross time periods. An audience member described how after he had taken out the colonial legacy chapter for a new edition of his book, everyone asked for it to be added back. Dr. Ángeles Piccone brought up the importance of space; the standard chronology does not work for the Patagonia.

The roundtable highlighted the great work of Fabricio Prado who has organized the Río de la Plata Workshop for ten years. The annual event workshops about a half a dozen papers by scholars in the United States and Latin America who work on the Río de la Plata region during the colonial period and the nineteenth century. It is a model for sharing and advancing research.

A major point of discussion was the question: Why is the subcommittee named Chile-Río de la Plata? Why is it not called the Southern Cone? Both the audience and the panelists urged the regional committee to investigate the matter. The general consensus was that Chile-Río de la Plata is too cumbersome.

7. Colonial Studies Committee Meeting

The Colonial Studies Committee convened on January 5 to reflect on how indigenous and Afro-descendant subjects shaped historical knowledge-making through their insertion in or occlusion from the archival record. In their presentations and throughout an animated exchange of ideas with a generous and friendly audience, the roundtable participants grappled with a key question: what do scholars of colonial Latin America have to contribute to the current archival turn? Titled “Historical Fact Formation and the Colonial Archives of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant People,” the roundtable explored when, how, and why certain social processes became archived as events and when, how, and why they did not. What are the political stakes of defining certain processes as events? How do past documentary framings of a particular occurrence (what is left out and what is put in) shape historians’ understanding of historical causalities? The presenters thought hard and deep about the silences of the archive. They pointed out that some such silences were, no doubt, the result of violent erasure and elite manipulation of a record drawn up for extractivist goals. But they also pointed to social alternatives that such silences could, on occasion, allude to. As Prof. Kris Lane pointed out, some historical actors “intentionally kept a low profile.” Their gesture of self-concealment might leave us, as historians, grasping for more, eager as we are to exhaustively stitch archival fragments into a complete picture. At the same time, however, the gesture reminds us of the archive’s institutional purposes, as an arm of a colonial state and of its elites. Our ethics as historians should then perhaps honor those lives of possibility that some forged beyond documentary confines, rather than decry their invisibility. As Prof. McKinley argued, methodologically we might also gain from this endeavor-- we would have to re-imagine the boundaries of the possible.

Through close analysis of a freedom suit from 1687 Lima, Prof. Michelle McKinley asked us to consider the purposes of such legal forms and the kinds of freedom that they yielded. She introduced Juana Godínez, who waged her struggle for freedom against one of the most powerful institutions in Lima: the Monasterio de la Encarnación. Her deceased enslaver had granted her freedom by testament, but conditionally. If she decided to stay within the monastery, she could be free at no charge. But if she decided to leave, she had to pay 400 pesos. The abbess wanted to place Juana Godínez, who at the time was not a *donada*, in the monastery's community property, raising plentiful hurdles to the enforcement of the testamentary dispositions. McKinley shows how throughout the conflict, the abbess' behavior toward Godínez changed rather mysteriously, but she also captures some of Godínez's own stop-and-start strategies, as she appears to primarily have vied for time through litigation. McKinley argues that this might have to do with Godínez's own children, whose testamentary freedom (from the same enslaver) she tried to shield and obscure and who remain unmentioned in the lawsuit. Approaching this freedom suit primarily as a legal event would leave out other social processes of negotiation that Godínez and the abbess were involved in--ones that lie at the margins of the suit and that occurred outside the court. Focusing on the freedom suit as a conflict with winner and losers also occludes the kind of freedom that Godínez was struggling to gain--a fractional one, a notion that Prof. McKinley developed in her recently published monograph and one with resonances across slave societies of colonial Latin America.

Prof. Juan Cobo Betancourt focused on a campaign against putative indigenous idolatry in the late sixteenth-century and early seventeenth-century New Kingdom of Granada. Cued in by a group of local elites, the Audiencia investigated accusations of idolatry against the Muisca, confiscating significant amounts of gold used in their religious ornaments. Cobo argued that historians should consider more closely such accusations of indigenous idolatry and not simply take them at face value. Seen from this angle, then, indigenous people might have been more committed to Christianity than the record would let us believe. Powerful actors used legal forms and therefore shaped the content of the archives around campaigns of idolatry extirpation with the intention of expropriating indigenous communities, as was the case here. Reconsidering this particular case of idolatry extirpation among the Muisca can therefore give historians of other better-known such campaigns food for thought as well.

Drawing on the typology of events proposed by Raymond Fogelson in his classic 1989 *Ethnohistory* article "The Ethnohistory of Events and Nonevents," Prof. Max Deardorff asked the audience to consider how the official narrativization of one particular event shaped narrations of other events in its wake. His presentation explored the background conflicts that eventually yielded a new cult of Christianity in New Granada in the 1580s. Drawing on legal records, Deardorff carefully considered the experience of growing Spanish interference in indigenous rural life from different angles. Indigenous people complained about abuse at the hands of local *encomenderos* and even sent representatives to Iberia to petition for remedy. Even though the Crown passed *reales cédulas* meant to protect them, mistreatment continued. The *encomenderos* decided to reframe such complaints as evidence of rebelliousness. They accused the men around the local caciques of fanning unrest. The conflict coincided with a Marian apparition in 1586, as well as with widespread influenza and plague. How do we make sense of all this? The classic record does not make room for the meanings that indigenous people attached to this apparition or the political purposes to which they deployed it. Deardorff encouraged us to think about the meaning of this new cult of Christianity and the official discourse of cooperation between

indigenous people and Spaniards that emerged therefrom, one that was supposed to paper over earlier conflicts.

Prof. Kris Lane asked us to reflect on how nonevents (uneventful mundane processes, the bulk of the everyday) can end up bumping into an event, yielding a flurry of archival production. Lane focused on serial data, account books from silver and gold mines in Potosí and Remedios (in Colombia) that detailed mundane work arrangements: structure of work gangs, prices of tools, ethnic monikers, the ages, clothing, and productivity rates of enslaved workers. At first sight, this information appears repetitive, giving little insight into the interiorities of the enslaved. Marginalia and commentary seemingly outside the main scope of the account books, however, alluded to enslaved workers' social life and to the pressures that they placed on the *mayordomos*. On the back of the account books of the Potosí mint, for instance, the recipes for syphilis cure hint at romantic escapades and at the *mayordomo*'s inability to contain them. The strict distribution of *chicha* suggests, again, the workers' ability to influence some of the resource distribution, but also sociability. A lawsuit against the *mayordomo* filed by an absentee owner from turn-of-the-seventeenth century Remedios reveals how enslaved people working in gold mining were dying from malnutrition. Yet, an understanding of the processes causing death (drought and food crises) does not emerge from reading the legal record alone. Gesturing toward Fogelson, Lane also argues for thinking beyond the archive to understand the past.

Adriana Chira's presentation asked why freedom through manumission, one that yielded some of the largest free populations of color in the Atlantic World, has remained understudied relative to insurgency-based Black freedom in the Age of Revolution and Emancipation. Manumission's political possibilities and imaginaries have remained buried underneath narratives of armed conflict (ones in which political rifts appear to be far clearer). Her presentation focused on a nineteenth-century Caribbean borderland--Santiago--an area situated on the margins of the industrial slavery of west-central Cuba. This is an area of the island where Cuba's War of Independence (1868-1898) became radicalized (to include goals such as general emancipation and universal manhood rights) by a large free peasant class of color. But, Chira argued, the sense of entitlement that this free peasantry of color deployed on the battlefield had deep colonial roots and had emerged through manumission and courtroom conflicts over the meaning of property ownership in one's self and in land long before 1868. Age-old colonial legal openings, including equity-based rulings inside local courts and a weak plantation economy, gradually closed throughout the 1850s and 1860s, as new sugar and coffee plantations were set up here, making it difficult for the free population of color to pull relatives out of slavery. Manumission and the sense of entitlement to ownership that it yielded among the enslaved and the partially freed was mapped onto a sense of local autonomy and attachment to local social networks upon which enslaved people depended to gain their freedom. When considered through this lens, then, the beginnings of the War might have had less to do with the nation as an elite liberal-republican ideology, and more to do with commitment to local autonomy.

The roundtable drew a very engaged audience. The dialogue that followed the presentations was intense, thrilling, and generative. We look forward to a reprise in Seattle.

8. Gran Colombian Studies Committee Meeting

“Beyond the Global: Colombia, Ecuador, and the New Histories of Science, Medicine, and the Environment”

Chair: Pablo Gómez

Secretary: Stefan Pohl-Valero

Presenters:

Lina del Castillo, University of Texas at Austin

Timothy Lorek, Brandeis University

Mauricio Nieto, Universidad de los Andes

Pablo F. Gómez, University of Wisconsin–Madison

The Gran Colombia Studies Committee met on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at the joint CLAH and AHA annual meeting. The chair of the Committee, Pablo Gómez, invited a group of historians to reflect on new perspectives (and challenges) about the history of science in Latin America, and more specifically in Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. Rather than formal papers, the session was structured as a roundtable with exchanges between the panelists and the audience.

Pablo Gómez opened up the roundtable with short introductions of the presenters and explained that Elisa Sevilla (from Ecuador, and one of the panelists) could not attend the AHA/CLAH meeting. Pablo also proposed to frame the ensuing conversation around how to write histories of science, medicine, and the environment in Latin America beyond the categories, periodizations, places, and trajectories usually adopted/explored by the historiography of modern science.

Lina del Castillo began his remarks by proposing a conversation about the history of science during the independence process of Gran Colombia, beyond the idea of the “colonial legacy” as the main obstacle to local science and progress. She pointed out that there are several historical accounts about science and medicine in the region, both during the 18th century (in the context of the Enlightenment and Bourbon reforms) and in the 19th century (in the context of the formation of modern nation-states in Latin America), but very little during the early years of independence. She proposed three lines of inquiry in order to enhance our understanding about the relationships between the practices of science, independence movements, and the early efforts in the construction of the new republic of La Gran Colombia: To explore the local Sociedades Económicas de Amigos del País; to problematize the general assumptions of the so called “Humboldtian science”; and to explore the transatlantic networks of intellectuals created during the Napoleonic invasion of Spain. Lina argued that these explorations can shed light on how certain institutions and spaces for the exchange of ideas and scientific objects, borrowed, at least in part, from the structures of the Spanish monarchy, were relevant both for to the local production of science and for the imagination of the new republic.

Tim Lorek stressed that the role of Latin America has been little explored in the international historiography of the environment and the Cold War. In particular, he argued that the history of the Green Revolution (GR) has seldom considered the case of Colombia, although it was in this country where several aspects of this project of global agricultural intervention were initially explored and implemented. The question is not only about how the GR impacted Colombia, but about how Colombia was a relevant space for the very production of knowledge related to the

GR. From this perspective, Tim mentioned that since the decade of 1930's the incipient industry of sugar in the Cauca Valley forged technical cooperation ties with agricultural experts in the USA, achieving financial resources and technical training for the investigation of sugarcane seeds that were resistant to various diseases. Around this economic and scientific project, stressed Tim, we can trace some of the origins of the GR. Moreover, if we consider that some Colombian agronomists were later involved in the global expansion of the GR, especially in India. Additionally, Tim mentioned that many of the American experts who began to see agriculture as a central tool against the expansion of communism were working in Colombia in the early 1950. In short, Colombia should be considered as a genuine space for the making of agricultural knowledge that, in the context of the Cold War, had global impact.

Mauricio Nieto offered a theoretical reflection on how to create or rethink categories and concepts that could enhance our explanatory power about the relationships between science, power, imperialism and Eurocentrism, from a Latin American perspective. In particular, he discussed the notions of "comprehension", and "translation". These notions represent an attempt to overcome the assumptions implicit in the ideas of western discovery of the New world, and the spread of science: an idealized perception of western science as an asymmetrical process in which non-European places and their aboriginal populations are reduced to the status of passive objects of knowledge and domination. Mauricio stressed that this picture is insufficient to capture the way in which both the *subject* that comprehends and the *object* of comprehension actively participate and are mutually transformed. We are dealing with the co-production of modern science, the New World and Europe, a process that, in turn, contributed to the consolidation of Europe as the center of the modern world.

Pablo Gómez finished the opening round of panelists' remarks by stressing that many of the spaces where knowledge has been produced in Latin America since the 16th century have seldom been explored by the historiography of modern science. The practices of early modern Afro-Caribbean healers, their networks and trajectories, are a case in point. Although the historiography of medicine, public health and diseases have had a very long tradition in Latin America, we still have very few historical accounts about the role of these "curanderos" in shaping novel human body conceptions; in influencing the practices of western physicians; and in the construction of scientific authority and social recognition. Early efforts to quantify diseases, and calculate risks, in the context of slave systems, were other examples given by Pablo in order to think about how to incorporate the history of the "others" (persons and places) into the history of modern science.

An animated conversation ensued between the audience and the panelists after the presentations. During it, participants remarked on the challenges of taking Latin America really into account in the historiography of modern science; of articulating the history of capitalism and the history of science in novel ways; and to reconsider the very notion of science.

9. Mexican Studies Committee Meeting

“Bridging Mexican and U.S. Scholarship on Mexican History”

Jan 4, 2020, New York City, NY

Chair: Peter B. Villella

Secretary: Pablo Miguel Sierra Silva

This year the Mexican Studies Committee featured a roundtable conversation intended to bring about earnest debate on the interactions, structural differences and ideological trajectories that have defined scholarship on Mexican history as produced in Mexico and the United States. Committee chair **Peter Villella** began the proceedings by inviting discussants to consider the productive collaborations that bridge what can often be discrete scholarly cultures. Emphasizing the need to reduce scholarly cross-talk, Villella shared his own experiences as a researcher upon encountering scholarship published in Mexico (unbeknownst to him) that had already taken on the very themes he hoped to explore. Along the same lines, there was the question of how to address works that replicated or challenged findings but did not engage one another, simply because they were addressed to different audiences in different languages due to lack of dialogue or mutual awareness. Villella also emphasized Mexican scholars' greater access to local archives (municipal, notarial, judicial, etc.) and the impact on scholarly outcomes that such a dynamic affords vis-à-vis the foreign researcher's compressed archival visits. In yielding the floor to the roundtable contributors, Villella invited our five distinguished colleagues to compare the current trajectories of scholarship on Mexican history in both Mexico and the U.S., highlight areas of resonance and dissonance, showcase models of dialogue and collaboration across linguistic and national boundaries, and suggest ways to encourage mutually beneficial cooperation in the future.

Kevin Terraciano contextualized his commentaries in light of the structural role played by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), and the relative absence of comparable organizations in the U.S. and Canada. Terraciano emphasized that Mexican-based scholars are constantly producing quality research, although their published work does not always circulate sufficiently outside of Mexico. Fortunately, the close relationship between the Library of Congress and the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* enabled Terraciano and Lisa Sousa (in their role as co-editors) to access scholarly works of limited availability. To promote collaboration with Mexico-based scholars, Terraciano encouraged U.S. academics to actively seek opportunities to present their research and publish in Spanish. Truly collaborative initiatives also require the organizers of U.S.-based conferences and workshops to accommodate their meetings in order to increase their accessibility to Mexican scholars. From a linguistic perspective, this might require organizing panels and sessions held in Nahuatl (as was done at the American Society for Ethnohistory meeting held in Pasadena, CA). In terms of specific projects that demonstrate this collaborative ethos, Terraciano highlighted the Digital Florentine Codex, an international, multi-institutional endeavor that will create an open-access, high-resolution version of the codex with audio versions of Book XII in Nahuatl. He also emphasized the work done by the Centro Cultural San Pablo and the Fundación Harp Helú in Oaxaca in engaging native communities through academic workshops and language documentation. Finally, Terraciano also

encouraged the active recruitment of Mexican students to graduate programs in the U.S., a dynamic that results from the interaction between colleagues in both countries.

Juan Pablo Morales Garza shared his insights on bridging scholarship based on his undergraduate education at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE) in Mexico City and his current trajectory as a doctoral student at the University of California-Los Angeles. His candid comments addressed the pertinent question (raised earlier by Terraciano) of why Mexican students pursue the graduate study of Mexican history in the United States. Morales Garza framed his reflections around the concept of scale. He highlighted the emergence of the Benson and Bancroft libraries in addition to the Library of Congress, as massive collections of rare materials that undoubtedly advance research on Mexican history, but also as repositories intimately bound to the emergence of the U.S. as a global power. By contrast, he argues, Mexican research institutes and universities do not hold important archival collections from other corners of the world. Morales Garza notes that these structural differences shape Mexican researchers' concern with the local (and hyperlocal), whereas U.S. academics seek interventions that inform larger processes. In this regard, institutions like the Colegio de Michoacán and Colegio de San Luis promote regionally-specific studies. Collaborative efforts between scholars in the U.S. and Mexico must, thus, acknowledge these distinct points of departure in order to arrive at new productive convergences. In terms of improving scholarly collaboration, Garza Morales encourages the organization of conferences held in Mexico through binational partnerships, especially in light of increased visa restrictions that limit the mobility of Mexican researchers.

Danna Alexandra Levin-Rojo shared her experiences based on her time at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco and as a member of the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI). She challenged the roundtable participants and the audience to consider not just the production of Mexican history, but the U.S. Southwest as an overlapping region in which Mexican scholars also write the history of the United States. Levin-Rojo stressed the collaborative potential of information technology and digital platforms in enabling transnational research projects, especially in instances when researchers' mobility and financial support are limited. A multisite project, for instance, could involve Philippine researchers collaborating with Mexican scholars interested in colonial linkages, just as a U.S.-based academic could seek out the assistance of locally-based Mexican researchers and their local archives. Levin-Rojo also called attention to the different expectations and productivity demands that structure U.S. and Mexican academia. She proposed an alternative to the traditional edited volume in which scholars produce research that does not engage or interact with other contributions within the same collection. Recalling her experience as co-editor (along with Cynthia Radding) of the *Oxford Handbook of Borderlands of the Iberian World*, Levin-Rojo noted that organizing two colloquiums among the handbook's participants allowed the contributors to engage and respond to one another's research.

Cynthia Radding emphasized parallel and converging lines of scholarship in Mexico and the United States that have given form to the field of Environmental History based on her extensive collaborations with the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas (UNAM) and the Colegio de Sonora. In recounting the development of the field, Radding recounted how North American environmental histories traditionally focused on moving frontiers of the South, Mid-West and

West, where Anglo-American settlers clashed with indigenous societies, extended slave economies, cleared forests, opened mines and planted commercial crops. These narratives then entwined with the conservation movement of the early twentieth century to become associated with notions of pristine natural settings, soil conservation and forestry. In Mexico, by contrast, environmental histories radiated outward from Mesoamerica towards the borderlands of *tierra adentro*. Indigenous systems for soil enrichment, water harvesting, terracing and canal irrigation constitute dominant themes of this particular environmental history. In particular, Radding highlighted the intellectual trajectory of the celebrated geographer William Doolittle, who began his work in the 1970s as part of a binational co-sponsored project of archaeology funded by the National Science Foundation and the INAH. Successful collaborative models such as these have paved the way for a quarter-century of engaged, transnational scholarship on lived environments in English and Spanish, in the United States and Mexico. Radding noted that pioneering environmental histories in Mexico were led by the likes of Bernardo García Navarro and his colleagues at the Colegio de México during the last quarter of the twentieth century. Along with scholars at CIESAS, the Colegio de Michoacán, Colegio de Jalisco, and Colegio de Sonora, an interdisciplinary web of researchers has produced highly-crafted studies of reciprocal impact across the material environment and social communities in Mexico.

Jaime Marroquín Arredondo offered a thematic presentation divided into three sections: areas of resonance, areas of dissonance, and models of dialogue and collaboration. With regards to resonance among Mexico- and U.S.-based scholarship, he accentuated the retelling of New Spain as a global producer of knowledge. For instance, situating the interplay between missionaries and indigenous informants in the Jesuit missions of Sonora allows for a new understanding of early modern scientific knowledge. Translation across cultures in the sixteenth century, in particular, has proved productive in reconceptualizing Native Mexicans and Native Americans as active agents in producing an immense reservoir of knowledge. By contrast, Marroquin identified areas of dissonance among researchers in Mexican and U.S. institutions in the dissection of postcolonial theory, particularly in the practice of separating knowledge production deemed as Amerindian or European (as opposed to recognizing polyphonic transculturality). Acknowledging said polyphony does not reduce or erase the substance of colonialism, but it does move us away from fixed racial categories that are prevalent in U.S.-based institutions. In closing, Marroquin highlighted the benefits of adopting the workshop model (as currently advanced at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Mexico City) with pre-circulated papers before beginning the publication and editorial process of a given volume.

10. Teaching and Teaching Materials Committee

Teaching & Teaching Committee Meeting Minutes, CLAH 2020 Annual Meeting
(prepared by Corinna Zeltsman, committee secretary, January 6, 2020)

For the 2020 meeting, the Teaching & Teaching Materials Committee hosted a roundtable titled, “**All Roads Lead to Roma: Grappling with Film in Latin American History.**” The session began with introductions and a welcome from chair **Jethro Hernández Berrones**. Hernández announced the results of the 2019 CLAH-H-LatAm syllabus prize for best thematic syllabus about Modern Latin America posted to the H-LatAm website. Given previous years’ responses to the call for syllabi, the anonymous prize donor increased the award amount from \$100 to \$300 this year. The prize committee reviewed 10 syllabi submitted by 6 scholars this year, an increase from previous years. The committee used a rubric that evaluated syllabi in five areas: historiographical/contemporary relevance, integration of learning objectives, diversity of historical and historiographical perspectives, pedagogical reflection/innovation, and accessibility for student learning needs. The first prize winner was **Casey Lurtz** for her syllabus “Migration and the Americas: Conquest to Present,” and honorable mentions went to **Nicole Pacino** for “Women and Gender in Latin American History,” and **Andra Chastain** for “Latin American Cities in the 20th Century.” Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all entrants who submitted their syllabi in support of open pedagogy! We hope to continue this program in future years to encourage sharing of pedagogical resources.

Hernández Berrones then began the roundtable by raising several questions about using film in the undergraduate classroom, asking how teachers can use the medium as a way to encourage critical analysis and how to balance teaching visual/filmic analysis with teaching of historical context.

The three panelists contributed reflections about their experiences and challenges working with film in the undergraduate Latin American History and Film History classroom. **Michael LaRosa (Rhodes College)** described how he began to approach film as, in the words of a mentor, a “resemblance of Latin America.” He laid out pros/cons of working with thematic versus chronological approaches and using films made only in the US (not a great idea) vs. films only made in Latin America (better idea). LaRosa suggested several books to read alongside films, including Donald Stevens’ *Based on a True Story: Latin American History at the Movies*, and Natalie Zemon Davis’ *Slaves on Screen: Film and Historical Vision*. He also suggested pairing films with the literary texts they are adapted from, for example, *Motorcycle Diaries*, *Like Water for Chocolate*, *Before Night Falls*, or *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Some films don’t age well, so LaRosa reminded the audience to consider whether films resonate with students or feel too complex to tackle in introductory surveys (like Pontecorvo’s *Burn!*) Finally, LaRosa reflected on how we should approach films within the syllabus—are they readings? Documents? Can they stand alone or should they be paired with readings, etc?

The second panelist, **Anne Rubenstein (York University)**, discussed the benefits and challenges of teaching film at her university, where students are pressed for time and often struggle with substantial reading assignments. She introduced the group to a film assignment that she’s been refining and reworking for 2nd year course Intro to Latin American History (12 weeks covers pre-conquest empires through contemporary Bolivian events). Her goals are to empower

them by helping build mastery of reading and writing. Second goal is listening critically to Latin American voices. Rubenstein discussed her assignment, which she breaks into three parts:

1. Topic proposal
2. Historical background paper (events depicted in the film)
3. Analyze relationship between film and events it depicts

The final panelist, **Seth Fein (NYU, Seven Local Film)**, discussed his work teaching film as an outgrowth of his own experiences moving from studying US History to Latin American History to becoming a filmmaker himself and now teaching in a film department. Fein highlighted three main points in his presentation:

- 1) film is a text, with which to understand film as a part of history
- 2) all films can do history & film should be taken seriously as works of history (brings into play the present in the past)
- 3) we can use film as way to question the very logic of the nation/region.

He offered a few examples to illustrate what he meant:

-*Los olvidados* (1950, Buñuel): the film tells you nothing about Mexico but does tell you about crossroads of Mexican/Spanish/US history, about the power of neorealism & surrealism coming together, about how film replaces muralism as a symbol of modernity and communication

-*Yo la peor de todos* (1990, Bemberg): film about Sor Juana, feminist work, tells us a lot about feminist politics in the 1980s; also an important historical essay that provokes thinking about the colonial era not because it's real but because it's plausible and interesting

-*Roma* (2018, Cuarón) is good history because Cuarón takes a period in national history and distills it through personal & family history, creates subjectivity and thus expands history, represents neoliberal moment in Mexican/world history that begins with films like *Cronos* or *Danzón* (critical of and product of neoliberalism)

Fein also suggested that having students make film changed the way students wrote about film. They became aware of how film/history is constructed through editing and how it can offer explanations through juxtaposition rather than exposition, etc. Finally, he underscored for those wanting to use film in the classroom that film is a subjective process, and that we should build our syllabi idiosyncratically and purposefully; playing to our strengths and goals. All roads lead to Roma!

We finished the session with comments and lively discussion among the audience. The panelists debated whether to treat film as a text or use the "Stevens approach" of comparing events and their representation.

VIII. CLAH 2019 AWARD AND PRIZE RECIPIENTS AND CITATIONS

NOTE: The 2019 Distinguished Service Award winner and James R. Scobie Prize recipients were announced and honored in the Fall 2019 Newsletter

For the 2020 Calls for Prizes, please see http://clah.h-net.org/?page_id=60

BOLTON-JOHNSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Bolton prize was established in 1956. It was enhanced in 2000 by a generous donation from Dr. John J. Johnson and is now the Bolton-Johnson Prize. It carries a stipend of \$1,000. The Bolton-Johnson Prize is awarded for the best book in English on any significant aspect of Latin American History that is published anywhere during the imprint year previous to the year of the award. Sound scholarship, grace of style, and importance of the scholarly contribution are among the criteria for the award. Normally not considered for the award are translations, anthologies of selections by several authors, reprints or re-editions or works published previously, and works not primarily historiographical in aim or content. An Honorable Mention Award may be made for an additional distinguished work deemed worthy by the Bolton-Johnson Prize Committee. It carries a stipend of \$200.

2019 Committee:

Camilla Townsend (chair)

Pablo Gomez

Keila Grinberg

2019 Winner:

Cristina Soriano, *Tides of Revolution: Information, Insurgencies, and the Crisis of Colonial Rule in Venezuela* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2018).

2019 Honorable Mention

Jesse Cromwell, *The Smugglers' World: Illicit Trade and Atlantic Communities in Eighteenth-Century Venezuela* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018).

This year's Bolton-Johnson prize committee read dozens of submissions, many of which were deeply inspiring works. We faced difficult decisions indeed. In the end, we selected two new books about Venezuela, both of which enrich the historiography of Latin America significantly.

The Honorable Mention goes to Jesse Cromwell, for his book, *The Smugglers' World: Illicit Trade and Atlantic Communities in Eighteenth-Century Venezuela*. Cromwell successfully explores a subject that was never meant to be explored—the extensive contraband trade that constituted an important segment of the colonial economy, and which ordinary people were prepared to go to great lengths to defend when the Spanish state attempted to intervene.

The prize goes to Cristina Soriano for her work, *Tides of Revolution: Information, Insurgencies, and the Crisis of Colonial Rule in Venezuela*. Many of us have hypothesized about the spread of radical political ideas in regions without printing presses, but none have dared to attempt to track what seemed to be the untrackable. Until now. Soriano spent twelve years following shreds of existing evidence and has deftly woven them together in a vivid and compelling new study of Venezuela in the Age of Revolutions. After reading this important work, no one can doubt that

ordinary people debated, understood and deeply cared about the radical changes afoot in the world in that time: without books or book-learning, Soriano's subjects voiced ideas and gave them wings.

WARREN DEAN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN BRAZILIAN HISTORY

The Warren Dean Memorial Prize was established in 1995 and carries a stipend of \$500. It recognizes the book or article judged to be the most significant work on the history of Brazil published in English during the year prior to the award year. Publications by scholars other than historians will be considered as long as the work has substantial historical content. Comparative works (e. g. on Brazil and another country) will be eligible as long as they include a substantial amount of material on Brazil.

2019 Committee:

Okezi Otovo (chair)
Celso Castillo
Eve Buckley

2019 Winner:

Yuko Miki, *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

2019 Honorable Mention:

Anne G. Hanley, *The Public Good and the Brazilian State: Municipal Finance and Public Services in São Paulo, 1822–1930* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2018).

The Warren Dean Memorial Prize Committee had the great pleasure of reviewing a collection of excellent new contributions to the field of Brazilian History. From these impressive submissions, the committee selected Dr. Yuko Miki's *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* as the 2019 recipient. An ambitious and densely argued study of citizenship claims and obstacles faced by black and indigenous populations during the 19th century, Miki's brilliant work moves fluidly between primary and secondary source material, rooting her arguments on slavery, race, and nation in telling examples and evocative vignettes--about land usurpation, miscegenation, and relationships between native and black communities. Miki argues that black and indigenous histories and their lessons for conceptualizing postcolonial Brazil cannot be studied separately. *Frontiers of Citizenship* is well analyzed, deeply researched, and beautifully written. It greatly advances our understanding of limited citizenship, popular politics, and black and indigenous lives on the "Atlantic Frontier." Miki's *Frontiers of Citizenship* is an outstanding contribution to Brazilian, Latin American, and African Diaspora History.

In recognition of another insightful new study, the committee awarded an Honorable Mention to Dr. Anne G. Hanley for *The Public Good and the Brazilian State: Municipal Finance and Public Services in São Paulo, 1822–1930*.

HOWARD F. CLINE MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Howard F. Cline Prize was established in 1976. It carries a stipend of \$500. The Howard F. Cline Memorial Prize is awarded biennially to the book or article in English, German, or a Romance language judged to make the most significant contribution to the history of Indians in Latin America, referring to any time before the immediate present. Items appearing in the two calendar years just preceding may be considered for a given year's award. Hence, items published in 2017 and 2018 will be considered for the award year 2019 (awarded at the meeting in January 2020).

2019 Committee:

Alex Hidalgo (Chair)
Ignacio Diaz Gallup
Alejandra Boza Villareal

2019 Winner:

Matthew Restall, *When Montezuma Met Cortés: The True Story of the Meeting that Changed History* (New York: Harper Collins, 2018)

In this innovative and highly entertaining work, Restall recasts the story of the Spanish-Aztec War (1519-1521) through a reevaluation of sources turning traditional accounts of triumph and superiority on their head. Restall argues that the history of capitulation by the Aztec Emperor narrated by Cortés and others after the defeat of Tenochtitlan is a lie that took on a life of its own as Spanish accounts grew in the decades after the military encounter. He centers his analysis on the fateful meeting between the two epic figures as a way to disassemble traditional narratives of conquest that have served Western powers to justify invasion and exploitation since the sixteenth century. Restall's capacious use of sources—oil paintings, book illustrations, chronicles, correspondence as well as Nahua plays, pictorial manuscripts, and codices—allows him to dismantle well-known tropes associated with cowardice, prophecy, and surrender that have structured our views of this seismic event. Most importantly, Restall suggests new ways to describe alliances and social relationships substituting worn out terminology with fresh concepts that cast light on the messiness of historical memory. Published as public commemorations of the arrival of Spanish troops in Mexico five-hundred years ago have generated tensions between the two nations, *When Montezuma Met Cortés* makes a timely and innovative contribution to a rich and extensive body of work that continues to capture our imagination.

2019 Honorable Mention:

Yuko Miki, *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

This is a captivating study of race and identity along Brazil's Atlantic frontier, a densely forested region targeted for colonization after independence. Miki's close analysis reveals the way in

which exclusionary policies that targeted enslaved Africans and unincorporated natives intersected notions of citizenship and nation-building in the nineteenth century.

MARIA ELENA MARTINEZ PRIZE IN MEXICAN HISTORY

\$500 is awarded annually for the book judged to be the most significant work on the history of Mexico published during the previous year. The prize was established in 2009. Formerly the Mexican History Prize, the prize was renamed in 2015 in memoriam of María Elena Martínez.

2019 Committee:

Kevin Gosner (chair)
Nichole Sanders
Christina Bueno

2019 Winner:

Monica Muñoz Martínez, *The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018).

In this year of 2019, amidst hateful rhetoric and bitter debate about the status of immigrants and asylum-seekers, and with an ongoing humanitarian crisis along the US-Mexico border, we are eager to award the Maria Elena Martínez Prize for the Outstanding Book in Mexican History to Monica Muñoz Martínez for *The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas*. Her work reveals a purposeful campaign of lynching and extralegal killings along the Texas-Mexico border that between 1910 and 1920 took the lives of hundreds of Mexican immigrants and Mexican-American citizens. The toll, in fact, is unknown and may have numbered several thousand. Drawing on oral histories, Martínez' focus from the very first page is on the men and women, the families and communities, whose lives and memories were indelibly marked by the violence. Her accounts are compelling and deeply moving. They weave the words and recollections of her subjects into a rigorous and careful reconstruction of events based on newspapers, government documents and other archival sources. Those events included a collective effort to unmask the perpetrators of the violence and force an end to the campaign. While *The Injustice Never Leaves You* is anchored in local and regional history, Martínez' perspective throughout is transnational and even global. She tackles issues that are profoundly important, in particular the role of extralegal and state-sponsored violence in the implementation of international borders and the laws and practices of racial and ethnic exclusion. Hers is a vital contribution to a field of study, and an arena of public debate, that is certain to preoccupy us for a long time to come.

2019 Honorable Mention:

Ben Vinson, III, *Before Mestizaje: The Frontiers of Race and Caste in Colonial Mexico* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

A new book by a distinguished scholar is always eagerly anticipated. With *Before Mestizaje*, Ben Vinson III delivers a deeply engaging study of social mobility among the most marginalized mixed-race peoples in seventeenth and eighteenth century Mexico, the “extreme” *casta* groups, the *lobos*, *moriscos*, and *coyotes*, among others. He has drawn on a rich and wide range of familiar sources—baptismal and marriage records, Inquisition proceedings, censuses—to write a history that is nonetheless fresh and highly original. This is a book that enriches an already deep historiography, one that will fascinate experts as well as general readers. Beautifully written and elegantly conceived, *Before Mestizaje* deserves a place among the canonical works on the social and cultural history of colonial Mexico.

ELINOR KERR MELVILLE PRIZE

The Elinor Kerr Melville Prize was established in 2007 through a bequest from Elinor Melville. It carries a stipend of \$500. The Melville prize is awarded biennially for the best book in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese on Latin American Environmental History published anywhere during the imprint year previous to the year of the award. Melville defined environmental history as “the study of the mutual influences of social and natural processes.” The prize will go to the book that best fits that definition, while also considering sound scholarship, grace of style, and importance of the scholarly contribution as criteria for the award. Normally not considered for the award are reprints or re-editions of works published previously, and works not primarily historical in aim or content. More general works of environmental history with significant Latin American content may also be considered.

2019 Committee

Mark Healey (chair)
Stefania Gallini
Wilson Picado

Not awarded as per the committee’s decision

LEWIS HANKE POST-DOCTORAL AWARD

The Lewis Hanke Award carries a stipend of up to \$1,000, to be used only for international travel. This award was created through generous donations from students, colleagues, and family members of the late Lewis Hanke. It will be given annually to a recent Ph.D. recipient in order to conduct field research that will allow transformation of the dissertation into a book. Applicants must have completed their Ph.D. degrees in the field of Latin American history no more than four years prior to the closing date of the application. The award will be made by a committee appointed by the CLAH president and confirmed by the CLAH General Committee.

2019 Prize Committee

Adam Warren (chair)

Karen Racine

Justin Castro

2019 Winner:

Audra Chastain, “Visions of Progress: The Santiago Metro and the Struggle for a Rational City”

Chastain’s timely research on the history of Santiago’s metro system and visions of urban planning engages key questions about Chilean politics, dictatorship and democracy and Latin American technocratic states in the second half of the twentieth century. This compelling project underscores unexpected continuities in state formation and the influence of French funders and experts while also tracing how workers, neighbors, and passengers came to see the metro as a contested symbol of the nation’s progress. By drawing on a rich trove of Chilean and French archival materials as well as oral histories and other published and unpublished sources, Chastain brilliantly demonstrates how both grassroots and elite actors negotiated the form that Chilean modernity would take.

LYDIA CABRERA AWARDS

Lydia Cabrera Awards are available to support the study of Cuba between 1492 and 1868.

Awards are designed specifically to support:

- 1) original research on Cuban history in Spanish, Mexican, and U. S. archives;
- 2) the publication of meritorious books on Cuba currently out of print; and
- 3) the publication of historical statistics, historical documents, and guides to Spanish archives relating to Cuban history between 1492 and 1868.

A limited number of awards will be made annually up to a maximum of \$5,000.

2019 Committee:

Camila Cowling (chair 2019)

Matt Childs (chair 2020)

Mariola Espinosa

2019 Winner:

Scott Doebler, “Creating a Connected Caribbean: Entangled Commodity Ecologies of Colonial Yucatán, Cuba, and Jamaica, 1492-1717.”

We were unanimous and enthusiastic in our decision to award the prize to Doeblner for his impressive and ambitious project. The project draws on a rich combination of sources, including environmental data and commodities histories, gleaned at archives from Mexico and Guatemala to Cuba, Jamaica, Spain, and the UK. Exploring everyday ways in which non-elite social actors created “entangled commodity ecologies,” it situates Cuba within much broader imperial and ecological processes in the sixteenth-century Caribbean.

JAMES ALEXANDER ROBERTSON PRIZE

The James Alexander Robertson Prize is awarded annually for an article appearing (during the year preceding the award) in one of the four consecutive issues of the *Hispanic American Historical Review* (August 2017-May 2018) for the 2018 award, awarded at the conference in January, 2019). The article selected for the award is to be one that, in the judgment of the prize committee, makes an outstanding contribution to Latin American historical literature. An Honorable Mention Award (with no cash stipend) may be made for an additional distinguished article deemed worthy of the same by the Robertson Prize Committee.

2019 Committee:

Jessica Stites-Mor (chair)

Chad Black

Ivonne Wallace-Fuentes

2019 Winner:

Adrian Masters, “A Thousand Invisible Architects: Vassals, the Petition and Response System, and the Creation of Spanish Imperial Caste Legislation,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 98.3 (2018): 377-406.”

Adrian Masters’ article opens up exciting and new realms of research into the colonial world by developing new methodologies that allow scholars to probe the Spanish empire’s extraordinarily abundant administrative legislation. The article details how the Council of Indies received many petitions from their New World subjects that overwhelmed ministers who later often used the exact wording of these petitions in the decrees they sent forward, many of which become imperial law. Lucidly argued, the article presents a compelling new understanding of colonial society and the interplay between the agency of everyday people and emerging legal structures of empire.

ANTONINE TIBESAR PRIZE

The Conference on Latin American History in cooperation with *The Americas* established the Tibesar Prize in December 1990. It carries a stipend of \$500. A Tibesar Prize Committee, annually named by the president of the Conference on Latin American History, will designate the most distinguished article published by *The Americas* for the volume year, which ends in the

year before the award is announced. Hence, for the 2018 Tibesar Prize to be awarded in January of 2019, the Tibesar Prize Committee will review and judge articles in the 2017 volume year.

2019 Committee:

Ben Bryce (chair)
Pamela Murray
Jessica Delgado

2019 Winner:

Ryan Crewe, “Building in the Shadow of Death: Monastery Construction and the Politics of Community Reconstitution in Sixteenth-Century Mexico,” *The Americas* 75.3 (July 2018): 489-523.

The committee found that Crewe’s article was a fascinating study of how the construction of *doctrina* monasteries in central Mexico increased greatly within a few short years of the great epidemics of the mid-sixteenth century. Crewe changes our understanding of the time period and thus the relationship between the wave of typhus epidemics and the building of monumental religious architecture. In so doing, he argues compellingly that Indigenous authorities pushed for this kind of construction and marshaled the labor of their subjects in direct response to the socio-political effects of the epidemics. Crewe adds significantly to both the historiography on indigenous agency and creativity as co-constructors of colonial Christianity. He uses architecture and spatial theory to cast new light on the story of early contact, epidemic, and Spanish colonial power, and he draws from a variety of types of evidence found in archives in Mexico and Spain. The committee was particularly struck by the way that the author forced us to rethink a broad set of ideas about this period of Indigenous-European relations and how the article challenges conventional views of sixteenth-century Mexico’s “spiritual conquest.” The article was well-organized and gracefully-written, drawing the reader through a careful, dynamic narrative.

PAUL VANDERWOOD PRIZE

This prize was established in 1961 and renamed the Vanderwood Prize, in recognition of Paul Vanderwood, in 2012. It carries a stipend of \$500. The Vanderwood Prize is awarded annually for a distinguished article on any significant aspect of Latin American history by a member of the CLAH, not appearing in the *Hispanic American Historical Review* or *The Americas*. The committee will consider nominated and self-nominated articles in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. To be eligible for the prize, authors must be members of the CLAH during the year the article is published and the year that it is considered for the award.

2019 Committee:

Catalina Muñoz (chair)
Natasha Lightfoot
David Carey

2019 Winner:

Adriana Chira, "Affective Debts: Manumission by Grace and the Making of Gradual Emancipation Laws in Cuba, 1817–68," *Law and History Review* 36:1 (2018): 1-33

The winning article traces the legal history of manumission suits launched by domestic workers in mid-nineteenth century Cuba as a lesser known but crucial part of the story of gradual emancipation on the island. She explores the practice of "manumission by grace" and the ways in which that long-established practice in Cuban slavery allowed for enslaved domestics, primarily women, to launch freedom suits in which emotional labor and care work that they performed could be valued using a market logic. The right to be paid for such affective labor, an argument that was not failsafe and thus required careful witness statements and strategically-presented evidence, if successful, translated into the right to be a free laborer. Chira traces how the customs of domestic slavery were morphed into rights. Centering enslaved people as litigants (a rare subaltern perspective indeed for legal history), she shows that emancipation policy in Cuba had a distinct history of being shaped as much from below as from above. Furthermore, she makes a compelling connection between her object of study and present-day concerns with the commodification of care work.

2019 Honorable Mention

Ernesto Capello, "From Imperial Pyramids to Anticolonial Sundials: Commemorating and Contesting French Geodesy in Ecuador," *Journal of Historical Geography* 62 (2018): 37-50.

This article tells the story of pyramids and obelisks celebrating the eighteenth-century Franco-Hispanic geodesic mission in Ecuador in a way that makes it relevant to different historiographical areas of inquiry including the history of cartography, collective memory, national identity, tourism, and imperial relations. He explores the long and little-known history of equatorial exploration among European scientists who exploited yet excluded indigenous knowledge about the land in general and particular landmarks that supported the measurement of the earth. His article offers a *longue durée* view of the competing claims to scientific truth between European explorers, local elites, administrators of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century liberal Ecuadorian government, and indigenous communities; a contest which bred the "invention of tradition." Today, Ecuador's public sites of memory and heritage tourism around equatorial exploration reflect the uneasy bridge between a whitewashed nationalistic project and decolonial indigenous constructions of the meaning of the equator.

IX. IN APPRECIATION: CLAH ENDOWMENT AND FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Melville:

Wilcox, Robert

Dean:

Dellacava, Ralph

Meade, Teresa

Wilcox, Robert

James R. Scobie:

Dellacava, Ralph

Harvey, Kyle

Lewis Hanke Award:

Dellacava, Ralph

CLAH Prizes and Awards:

Castro, Joseph

Gobat, Michel

Sanders, James

Schwaller, John

Sullivan-Gonzalez, Douglass

CLAH Happy Hour 2021:

Cline, Sarah

X. LIST OF LIFETIME MEMBERS (NEW MEMBERS IN BOLD)

Alden, Dauril	Cooney, Jerry	Kiddle, Amelia
Aleman, Gladys	Couturier, Edith	Knight, Franklin
Anderson, Rodney	Covert, Lisa	Komisaruk, Catherine
Andrews, Reid	Cowan, Benjamin	Langer, Erick
Appelbaum, Nancy	Craib, Raymond	Lavrin, Asunción
Arrom, Silvia	Cummins, Victoria	Lee, Monica Kittiya
Beezley, William	Davies Jr., Thomas	Lesser, Jeff
Bell, Stephen	Dávila, Jerry	Lewin, Linda
BigelowAllison	De La Pedraja, René	Lombardi, John
Borges, Dain	De La Teja, Jesús F.	Lopez, Rick
Borucki, Alex	De La Torre Curiel, Jose	Love, Joseph
Boyer, Christopher	Delson, Roberta	Lutz Christopher
Buchenau, Jurgen	Duenas, Alcira	Maclachlan, Colin
Bunker, Steven B.	Eakin, Marshall	Mallon, Florencia
Burkholder, Mark	Eller, Anne	Matthew, Laura
Burns, Kathryn	Flemion, Phillip	McEnroe, Sean
Cagle, Hugh	Friedman, Max Paul	Milton, Cynthia
Carey, Elaine	Ganster, Paul	Moulton, Aaron
Castilho, Celso	Garrett, David	Myers, Alfred
Castro, Donald	Gonzales, Michael	Navarro, José Manuel
Cline, Sarah	Gram, Bill	Nobles, Rex
Coatsworth, John	Graubart, Karen	O'Hara, Matthew D.
Coerver, Don	Greever, Janet	O'Toole, Rachel Sarah
Cohen, Theodore	Grieco, Viviana	Olcott, Jocelyn
Connell, William F.	Horna, Hernan	Owens, Sarah
Conniff, Michael	Jaksic, Ivan	Pieper Mooney, Jadwiga
Cook, Karoline	Johnson, Harold	Poole, Stafford

Porter, Susie
Premo, Bianca
Proctor III, Frank (Trey)
Putnam, Lara
Radding, Cynthia
Ramos, Frances
Rankin, Monica
Rausch, Jane
Resendez, Andrés
Rice, Mark
Rich, Paul
Roseblatt, Karin
Safford, Frank
Schlotterbeck, Marian

Schwaller, John
Scobie, Ingrid
Scott, Rebecca
Soto Laveaga, Gabriela
Stern, Steve
Stevens, Donald
Stewart, James
Stowe, Noel
**Sullivan-Gonzalez,
Douglass**
Summerhill, William
Sweet, David
Tenenbaum, Barbara
Terraciano, Kevin

Tulchin, Joseph
Vazquez, Josefina Z.
Vinson III, Ben
Wakild, Emily
Walker, Louise
Warren, Richard
Weber, Rebecca
Wright- Rios, Edward
Yannakakis, Yanna
Panayota
Young, Julia
Zyblikiewics, Lubomir

