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	North Central Council of Latin Americanists	

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is instructive to follow U.S. press coverage of Venezuelan President, Hugo Chávez and his recent missteps. In the past few months, political reporting on Latin America has chronicled President Christina Kirshners's conflicts with Argentina's farmers, Brazil's efforts to contain "militia" violence in Rio de Janeiro's favelas and Mexico's bloody campaign against its narcos, but no Latin American leader has received the sustained attention devoted to Chávez. (on the Miami *Herald* website, Venezuela gets its own subheading). There has been a spate of newspaper articles following allegations of his government's financial support for Colombia's rebels, the FARC, his plans to reform and expand the nation's intelligence services and his failed efforts last year to amend the Venezuelan Constitution.

There is an alarmist tone to most mainstream press coverage of Chávez. His friendship with Fidel Castro, overtures to the FARC and to Iran and frequent outbursts against the real and imagined enemies of his "Bolivarian Revolution" make him a colorful character. The image of Chávez being lectured on democratic civility by Spain's ex-Prime Minister, José María Aznar, and finally silenced by King Juan Carlos I ("porque no te callas") at last November's Ibero-American summit reinforced the association of Chávez with the forces most often identified as threats to U.S. security. In particular, many news analyses see in Chávez's political maneuvering an effort to construct a Cuban-style socialist state in Venezuela. The constitutional changes he proposed last year would have stripped away the autonomy of the Central Bank and any limits on presidential re-election. His decreed new intelligence law was characterized as "provoking widespread fears that the government wanted to follow Cuba in creating a society wide network of informants whose main purpose was to nip antigovernment activities in the bud." (Simon Romero, "When Venezuelan President Goes Over the Line, and Realizes it," *New York Times*, June 10, 2008, p. A5)

The irony, of course, is that Chávez lost the Constitutional referendum, substantially curtailed the reach of his proposed intelligence agency and has distanced himself from the FARC. The first two reveal the surprisingly healthy state of Venezuelan democracy. Chávez remains a tremendously popular figure. He won re-election in 2006 with almost 63% of the vote, a clear repudiation of the traditional Venezuelan political elite and their inability to offer satisfying solutions to Venezuela's poor. His anti-Americanism plays well to this domestic constituency, particularly given the association of Chávez's opponents with the failed 2002 U.S. sanctioned effort to depose Chávez. While his call for "socialism" draw attention to his

nationalizations and foreign policy alignments abroad, at home this stance is best understood by his supporters as a commitment to channeling state resources toward social welfare programs and embracing popular participation in Venezuelan politics at all levels.

Chávez came to power mobilizing support from the grassroots organizations that had taken root before 1988, organizations that offered local-level solutions given the poverty of contemporary politics. Yet, while Chávez has been able to draw on these groups, his efforts to turn them into “chavista” clients has not been entirely successful. Three million of those who voted for him as president in 2006 were unwilling to vote for his Constitutional referendum, and the rapidly spreading discontent with his intelligence decree forced him to step back on that front as well. While Chávez may have autocratic ambitions, he seems much closer to a classic Latin American populist than a newly minted Fidel. To focus attention on Chávez’s antics and rhetoric loses sight of why he enjoys such support in Venezuela and what limits Venezuelans have imposed upon his rule.

Seth Meisel  
Associate Professor of History  
UW-Whitewater

Nominations for 2008-09 NCCLA Executive Committee due by August 1, 2008.  
<http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/nccla/conference08/callnominations.cfm>

CONFERENCES & CALL FOR PAPERS
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CONFERENCE **North Central Council of Latin Americanists**, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, October 31-November 1, 2008, *Latin America’s Cultural Diversity: Art, Politics and History an interdisciplinary conference*. Registration information available from <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS/nccla/index.html> after September 1.

## NCCLA Research and Teaching Awards

In order to promote good scholarship and to recognize the accomplishments of our members, the Executive Committee of the NCCLA voted in 1984 to institute a program of annual cash awards for work in three areas of scholarship. The amounts of these awards are subject to annual approval by the Executive Committee; it is expected that prizes will be awarded every year in all categories where materials have been submitted for presentation at the conference except when compelling reasons can be shown for not doing so. Only conference participants are eligible to submit materials for consideration.

Every effort will be made by the Awards Committee to announce the winners of awards at the annual meeting. Those individuals who want their work considered should submit it to the Awards Committee (via the Program Chair) **by September 15, 2008** as an email (Word) attachment.

The following awards are available:

**The Raquel Kersten Professional Research Award**

A \$200 award may be given for a research work dealing with Latin American Studies in any relevant academic area. Papers will be judged first, as to their contribution to new knowledge of Latin America, secondly, on the thoroughness and appropriateness of research and methodology, and thirdly, on the style or form of presentation. Papers may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese and must be unpublished when submitted.

**Professional Teaching Award**

A \$200 award may be given for an effort in the field of teaching Latin American Studies. This effort can entail the development of audio-visual materials, curriculum materials, theoretical or practical papers, or any other project designed to improve the teaching of Latin American Studies. Projects may be directed towards the primary, secondary or university level, or for the education of the general public.

**Student Research Award**

A \$200 award may be given to a research paper submitted by a student currently enrolled at an institution of higher education. Papers will be judged on the same basis as the professional research awards.

**CALL FOR PAPERS 7th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities**  
January 9 - 12, 2009, Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa, Honolulu Hawaii, USA

**Submission Deadline: August 22, 2008**

Sponsored by University of Louisville - Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods, The Baylor Journal of Theatre and Performance, Web address: <http://www.hichumanities.org>  
Email address: [humanities@hichumanities.org](mailto:humanities@hichumanities.org).

The 7th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities will be held from January 9 (Friday) to January 12 (Monday), 2009 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from arts and humanities related fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Cross-disciplinary submissions with other fields are welcome.

All areas of Arts & Humanities are invited.

Submitting a Proposal:

You may now submit your paper/proposal by using our online submission system! To use the system, and for detailed information about submitting see:  
[http://www.hichumanities.org/cfp\\_artshumanities.htm](http://www.hichumanities.org/cfp_artshumanities.htm)

Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities

P.O. Box 75036  
Honolulu, HI 96836 USA  
Telephone: (808) 542-4385  
Fax: (808) 947-2420  
E-mail: [humanities@hichumanities.org](mailto:humanities@hichumanities.org)  
Website: <http://www.hichumanities.or>

**CALL FOR PAPERS University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies 58th Annual Conference** *The Urban Divide in Latin America: Challenges and Strategies for Social Inclusion*, January 29 - 30, 2009, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

Latin America has the largest percentage of urban population of any world region in addition to the most unequal distribution of income. This inequality is most apparent in cities, where the richest and the poorest live in close proximity, and social inequality becomes tangible and flagrantly evident in spatial terms. How can urbanists affect policies that foster urban inclusion?

This multidisciplinary conference aims to gather scholars and professionals dedicated to improving the quality of life in urban Latin America. This forum will provide participants an opportunity to share their research and experiences, and to engage in dialogue to generate ideas and identify solutions to advance social inclusion in Latin American cities. The conference is co-hosted by the UF Center for Latin American Studies and the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning. Joseli Macedo, UF Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, and Martha Kohen, UF Professor of Architecture, will co-chair the conference.

We seek contributions on a wide range of urban research reflecting the rich variety of work undertaken in the field.

Abstracts are welcome from researchers at any stage of their careers, as well as planning practitioners and others dedicated to studying Latin American cities.

Submit a 150-word abstract at: <http://www.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/LAS/>.  
(This website will be available for submissions starting June 15.) Abstracts should be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese as Microsoft Word documents and should include the author's name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, and title of the presentation.

**Abstract Deadline: September 1, 2008**

Authors will be notified by September 15th if their paper has been selected for presentation at the conference. Those interested in having their papers considered for publication in a conference volume or journal issue should submit their completed papers by January 8, 2009.

For more information about the UF Center for Latin American Studies, visit: [www.latam.ufl.edu](http://www.latam.ufl.edu) .

Contact Patricia Sampaio, LAS Program Coordinator, with questions about the conference, [psampaio@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:psampaio@latam.ufl.edu).

**CONFERENCE Re-Union: Manifesting the Collective Power of Haitian Ingenuity,**  
November 6-8, 2008, club Indigo Resort Hotel, (Côte des Arcadins), Montrouis, Haiti. Haitian Studies Association, Twentieth Anniversary Conference.

The Haitian Studies Association (HSA) will re-examine the ethos of unity that enabled the Haitian people to achieve independence against seemingly insurmountable odds in 1804. This ethos, which proclaimed freedom for all, is represented in Haiti's national credo, *l'Union fait la force!* What has transpired since 1908 may be seen as multiple fragmentations of that unity, as divisions along lines of class, gender, race and ideology have shattered Haiti's original ideal for national solidarity. At the HAS conferences over the past two decades, numerous scholars have examined these divisions through the lens of Haiti's history, socio-economic structures, religions and culture. However, to secure a more promising future for the country, much remains to be understood about how these divisions and their resulting inequities have been overcome by the individual and collective ingenuity of the Haitian people.

For more information Email: [has@umb.edu](mailto:has@umb.edu) Website: <http://www.haitianstudies.umb.edu>.

**CALL FOR PAPERS. Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies, 2008 Conference**  
November 7-8, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

This year's conference will bring together scholars, educators, graduate, undergraduate, and high school students, and community members interested in Latin American Studies. Papers from all areas of the social sciences, humanities and the arts and/or cross-disciplinary studies and relating to Latin American/Latino/a Studies are invited. All topics are welcome. Selected papers will be published in the Conference's Proceedings.

**Submissions:**

Proposals for single papers and complete sessions are welcome. Single paper proposals should include your paper's title and abstract (200 word or less), and your name, academic affiliation (if appropriate), and contact information. Session proposals (3 to 4 presenters) should include: the session's title and contact person; the same information required of single paper proposals for each of the session's presenters.

Proposals to: lead open forums, discussion groups, teaching workshops; to set up booths for graduate or study abroad programs; and/or to screen films or project other media are also welcome.

Email your submissions to the 2008 PCCLAS Program Chair, Robert Kirkland, at [pcclas2008@cmc.edu](mailto:pcclas2008@cmc.edu). Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged via email within 48 hours. You may also send your submission via regular mail to:

Robert Kirkland  
Department of History  
Claremont McKenna College  
850 Columbia Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711-6420

For more information, visit the PCCLAS website at <http://pcclas.org/>

Deadline for Submissions: Postmarked or emailed by **Monday, September 29, 2008.**

**CALL FOR PAPERS Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS), *Latin America: Dealing with the Heritage of the Past, Building Bridges to the Future.*** November 20-22, 2008, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

MALAS is interdisciplinary and welcomes papers on a variety of Latin American topics.

The conference will be held at The Capitolio (Puerto Rico's legislature) and is co-sponsored by Senator Kenneth McClintock, President of the Puerto Rican Senate, and Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez

Proposal deadline **September 30, 2008.**

Send panel and paper proposals to:

Jennifer S. Holmes, Ph.D. School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, GR 31, The University of Texas at Dallas 800 West Campbell Road Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Office: 972-883-6843 Fax: 972-883-6927

Email: [jholmes@utdallas.edu](mailto:jholmes@utdallas.edu)

**Additional information:**

Visit website [www.malaset.org](http://www.malaset.org) for additional information.

For registration visit website or contact Phil Kelly at (620) 341-5238; [kellyphi@emporia.edu](mailto:kellyphi@emporia.edu); Registration is \$100 for faculty and \$25 for students.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS
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FELLOWSHIP **Princeton University** Program in Latin American Studies Fellowships, 2009–2010.

The Princeton University Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) invites applications for research fellowships. These fellowships will be awarded to outstanding Latin Americanists interested in devoting a semester or year in residence at Princeton University. Fellowships are open to scholars in all disciplines, with preference given to applicants from Latin America. The terminal degree must have been completed by the application deadline.

During the appointment, fellows will be expected to pursue independent research at Princeton; to teach one undergraduate seminar per semester, conditional upon approval of a Princeton department and the Dean of the Faculty; and participate in PLAS-related events on campus. Fellows will enjoy full access to Firestone Library and to a wide range of activities throughout

the University. For more information about the Program in Latin American Studies, applicants are encouraged to visit the PLAS website: <http://www.princeton.edu/~plas/>.

Fellows will be appointed for either one or two semesters during the academic year, 2009–2010. The Office of the Dean of the Faculty determines stipends on the basis of current academic rank and award duration; appointment rank at Princeton is determined on the basis of seniority and current institutional affiliation.

#### How to Apply

Applicants must submit all of the following (including letters of recommendation), postmarked by the deadline, Monday, **September 29, 2008**.

1. A cover letter indicating the applicant's proposed length of stay (1–2 semesters), title of the proposed research project, and teaching interests;
2. A curriculum vitae;
3. A four-five page statement describing the research project and its scholarly contribution;
4. One undergraduate seminar proposal (or syllabus) for each proposed semester of the fellowship;
5. Three letters of reference sent directly to the Program in Latin American Studies (mailed, or sent electronically to [plas@princeton.edu](mailto:plas@princeton.edu)) with a subject line stating "PLAS Fellowship Recommendation [Applicant Name]."
6. To complete the process, applicants must also complete the online application cover sheet at <http://www.princeton.edu/~plas/>.

Application materials must be sent electronically, postmarked by the deadline, Monday, September 29, 2008, to [plas@princeton.edu](mailto:plas@princeton.edu) with a subject line stating "PLAS Fellowship Application." In addition, four paper copies must be sent to:

Princeton University  
Program in Latin American Studies  
PLAS Fellowship Program  
309–316 Aaron Burr Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544–0001 USA

Fellowships awards for 2009–2010 will be announced in February 2009.

Princeton is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

For information about applying to Princeton, please link to:  
<http://web.princeton.edu/dof/ApplicantsInfo.htm/>.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS
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Dr. Elia J. Armacanqui-Tipacti's recent paper "El lenguaje del arte y la literatura en el Jardín de las glicinas by Nela Rio" was presented at the 2ª Conferencia de la Serie Autores Hispano-Canadienses at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Gatineau, Quebec, Canada on May 15, 2008.

Dr. Armacanqui-Tipacti is also the current President of the Peruvian Association HATARI PERU! [www.hatariperu.org](http://www.hatariperu.org)

Send News From Members for Fall 2008 issue to Elia J. Armacanqui-Tipacti [Elia.Armacanqui-Tipacti@uwsp.edu](mailto:Elia.Armacanqui-Tipacti@uwsp.edu)

## BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

La Clínica A Doctor's Journey Across Borders by David P. Sklar. In 1972 David Sklar left his senior year of college to volunteer at a community clinic in rural Mexico. With absolutely no medical experience beyond being accepted to medical school at Stanford, Sklar literally learned medicine by practicing it. With duties that ranged from suturing wounds and delivering babies to digging latrines to pulling teeth, his time at the clinic took him into the heart of a medical world that the sterilized walls of the twentieth century would never have shown him. The experience challenged his idealism and, ultimately, molded him into a skilled emergency physician.

Years later, deeply immersed in the stress of running the ER at the University of New Mexico Hospital and facing a divorce, Sklar decided to revisit the Mexican village and clinic that provided inspiration and grounding in the early stages of his career. Weaving together his time in Mexico, his later career, and his marriage, Sklar's memoir offers a thought-provoking meditation on the virtues of idealism in the face of the inevitable failures that haunt all human endeavors.

ISBN: 978-0-8263-4524-0 \$26.95, hardcover

University of New Mexico Press, Order Department, 1312 Basehart Rd. SE

Albuquerque, NM 87106-4363, TEL: 1-800-249-7737, Website:

<http://unmpress.com/unmpress.php>

Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela by Pei-Lin Yu. Informal and personal accounts of events during her two year stay with the Pumé people of South America sparkle with descriptive flourishes and turns of phrase as she describes the daily cycles of birth, growth, romance, sickness, healing, and death among the villagers.

ISBN: 978-0-8263-1807-7, \$21.95 paperback

University of New Mexico Press, Order Department, 1312 Basehart Rd. SE

Albuquerque, NM 87106-4363, TEL: 1-800-249-7737, Website:

<http://unmpress.com/unmpress.php>

Moche Art and Visual Culture in Ancient Peru by Margaret A. Jackson. Scattered throughout their coastal homelands, the remains of impressive artworks produced by the Moche of northern Peru survive. These works include ceremonial centers extensively decorated with murals, as well as elaborate and sophisticated ceramic vessels, textiles, and metalwork, that serve to visually represent an ancient American culture that developed a complex, systematized pictorial code used to communicate narratives, sets of ideas, and ideological constructs.

In this study, Margaret Jackson analyzes Moche ceremonial architecture and ceramics to propose the workings of a widely understood visual language. Using an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates archaeology and linguistics with art history and studies of visual culture, Jackson looks at the symbolism of Moche art as a form of communication, the social mechanisms that produced it, and how it served to maintain the Moche social fabric.

ISBN: 978-0-8263-4365-9, \$45.00 hardcover **Web Special: \$11.36**  
University of New Mexico Press, Order Department, 1312 Basehart Rd. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106-4363, TEL: 1-800-249-7737, Website:  
<http://unmpress.com/unmpress.php>

Revolutionary Freedoms: A History of Survival, Strength, and Imagination in Haiti. Foreword by Kamau Brathwaite With the paintings of Ulrick Jean-Pierre. Edited by Cécile Accilien, Ph.D., Columbus State University, GA; Jessica Adams, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley; and Elmide Méléance, Montgomery County (MD) Schools.

This new perspective on Caribbean history features essays that augment the historical paintings of renowned contemporary Haitian-American artist, Ulrick Jean-Pierre.

Poet, playwright, and scholar Kamau Brathwaite has written the powerful foreword to this volume, which combines scholarship, experience, and inspiration to reveal the complex history of the island of Hispaniola. Chapters cover pre-Columbian and colonial history; critical events and people of the Haitian Revolution; the tangle of U.S.-Haitian relations, including the special relationship with Louisiana; Haitian connections to South America; and the contested border with the neighboring Dominican Republic. "Revolutionary Freedoms" also includes an interview with the artist, a section on women in the nation's history, and suggested reading.

ISBN: 1-58432-293-4 \$49.50 hardcover.  
Caribbean Studies Press 7550 NW 47th Avenue Coconut Creek, FL 33073 TEL: (954) 968-7433  
Website: [www.caribbeanstudiespress.com](http://www.caribbeanstudiespress.com).