



2016-2017 Newsletter

Message from LACS Program Director

As the 2016-17 academic year winds down, we are all catching our breaths. Beyond the diverse array of academic, cultural, and social activities we organized and co-sponsored, LACS endeavored this year to support Latinx students on our campus at time of growing anxiety around deportation, green cards, and ICE. We are proud of the various events organized in our “Solidarity and Resistance” series, many of which were joint efforts with other programs, departments, and student groups. Some highlights from the year:

- We launched a new LACS website! Check it out at <https://www.newpaltz.edu/lacs/>
- We are mighty proud of our 6 graduating senior LACS majors, each of whom conducted an original capstone research project under the excellent leadership of Prof. Phil Mauceri (Political Science/ International Relations). (See Capstone Report.)
- Once again, our faculty showed themselves to be engaged and nationally recognized scholars, making us proud with important research and prestigious awards and fellowships. (See Faculty and Staff News.)
- The Museo Escolar/Latino Cultural Center moved forward with cataloguing its collection of material objects from Latin America and hosted several exciting events. Many thanks to LACS work-study assistant and graduating senior Ashley Murdock, who spent many grueling hours on this work!
- 2017 outstanding student recognition went to graduating senior Alexandra Abreu Boria. Congrats Alexa!
- Several LACS majors (Asheley Murdock, Noreli Noreña) and minors (Emilio Almonte, Luisa Cruz, Tyone Haynes, Jr., Jakhara Norwood, Analis Salcedo, Ana Valdez and Kimberly Velazquez) were honored at this year’s First-World graduation ceremony. Congrats to you all!
- We will not soon forget the fall 2016 visit to our campus by Mayan Hip-Hop group Balam Ajpu. Thanks for Profs. Porras and Rojas-Sosa for bring them to New Paltz!
- We are, as always, grateful to LACS secretary Cookie Chandler for her excellent admin (and moral) support to the program. Cookie was given special recognition this spring by the Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean’s Office. Congrats!

Beyond Latin American and the Caribbean’s incredible cultural and socio-political histories, LACS events brought our attention to forms of crisis faced by much of Latin America and the Caribbean today. Indeed, after a period of extraordinary economic growth, social progress and growing middle classes during the first decade of the 21st century, parts of the region have fallen into economic and political crisis, with growing economic volatility, environmental degradation, and threats to democratic institutions. We are committed to research and teaching that reflects these ongoing challenges.

I hope you enjoy the updates in the newsletter. All best for a good summer and a great Fall 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Junge', is written in a cursive style.

Benjamin Junge
LACS Program Director



Prof. Luz Porras

Capstone Report

Kudos to our Spring 2017 graduating senior LACS majors, each of whom produced an independent capstone projects based on original research. Here are selected titles from these exciting projects:

- Alexandra Abreu Boria, “Femicide, Gang Violence, & Migration in Guatemala: The Interconnection of the Civil War & Social Violence” (recognized with high-distinction)
- Ashley Murdock, “Violence against Women in Brazil and Mexico: Understanding the Factors behind the Violence, its Portrayal in the Media, and the Role of Feminist Activism”
- Gabrielle Napoli, “Social Action and the Fight to End Femicide in Argentina” (recognized with high- distinction)
- Judith Wooley, “Democracy and Violence in Mexico”



Prof. Philip Maureri



LACS Major Judith Wooley



LACS Major Ashley Murdock

Faculty Accomplishments and Summer Plans



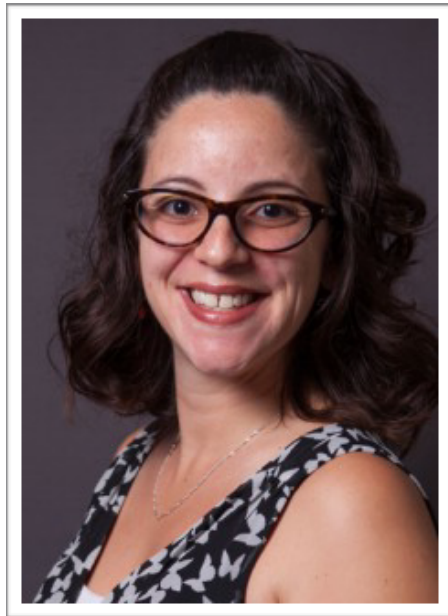
Prof. **Ligia Aldana** (Languages, Literatures and Cultures), was awarded a Fulbright Program Core Research award for the Spring 2018 semester.

Prof. **Sharina Maillo-Pozo** (Language, Literatures and Cultures) launched a major new research project focused on Dominican feminist intellectual, Camila Henríquez Ureña, under a prestigious National Supermarket Association (NSA) Dominican Studies Fellowship. Sharina has already given several presentations on her research, including on our campus and at Pomona College, and has made a research trip to Argentina.



Prof. **Cesar Barros** (Languages, Literatures and Cultures), completed a research paper on the concept of failure as it appears in the work of Uruguayan writer Mario Levrero, which will be published later this year in the important edited volume, *Un Asombro Renovado: Vanguardias Contemporáneas en Latinoamérica* (Iberoamericana Vervuert). He also co-wrote with Angeles Donoso an article on the work of the Chilean art collective Araya-Carrión. This summer, Prof. Barros will co-direct the Cultural Engagement Program in Guatemala, with Profs. Porrás and Rojas-Sosa. He will also present new research on the relations between art and politics and the dialectics of exceptionality and repetition at the 2017 meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in Utrecht, Holland.

Prof. **Benjamin Junge** (Anthropology) presented research from his NSF-funded anthropological research project on Brazil's rising middle class at several scholarly meetings, including the Society for Applied Anthropology (Santa Fe) and the 2017 Latin American Studies Association meeting (Lima). A chapter on his research on gender and grassroots politics in Porto Alegre came out in the new book, *Beyond Civil Society: Activism, Participation, and Protest in Latin America* (Duke University Press), edited by Sonia Alvarez and others. Prof. Junge will spend the summer in the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife, conducting an ethnographic study of class mobility in relation to political subjectivity and urban geography.



Prof. **Jessica Pabón** (Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies) gave several invited talks this year, based on her ongoing research, including "I am not a Feminist. I am a Graffitera: Performing Feminist Community without Feminist Identity" (Bard College) and "At One Point We All Rebelled': Hip Hop Graffiti Grrlz and the Performance of Feminist Masculinity" (University of Pittsburgh). In addition, she has two original research articles coming out shortly in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, including "Performing Queer Boricua Motherhood on Social Media: Gender-Fluid Parenting as a Practice of Decolonization" (*Performance Research*) and "Writin', Rappin', Breakin': Performing 'Women' in Hip Hop" (*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*). This summer, Prof. Pabon will travel to Hamburg, Germany to present "The Politics of Latina Feminist Overperformance within the Academy" at the Performance Studies International conference.

Prof. **Cruz Bueno** (Black Studies)'s co-authored article with Errol Henderson, "Bargaining or Backlash? Evidence on Intimate Partner Violence from the Dominican Republic" was published in *Feminist Economics* (March 8, 2017).



Thanks to Prof. Michelle Nasser...



This spring, we revived a long-dormant course, “Latin America Through the Arts” (THE 208), taught by adjunct Prof. Michelle Nasser. We are grateful to Michelle for stepping in and doing such a great with our one Theater Arts course. Michelle is moving to Texas, so we will miss her on campus and wish her well!

Alumni Update from Claiane Rojas, Class of 2016/7

After graduating from New Paltz, I was offered a position at my previous internship as a Junior Consultant on Qualitative Analysis for the Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean, at the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) for the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. To an extent, the position was a continuation of my previous internship, with much more responsibility. My title is very long and sounds complicated but the work is very interesting: I analyze focus groups done in 20 countries throughout the region for the Human Development Report. This work was inspired by the 2030 UNDP Agenda’s goal to *leave no one* behind. Therefore, to understand people’s perceptions of poverty and progress will build a collective imaginary for the region. This information can guide public policy changes to make sure that the voices of the most underrepresented groups are included.



My training at SUNY New Paltz—especially with the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program—truly prepared me for this work. Knowing the region from an interdisciplinary perspective—historical, political, economic, sociological, and cultural—has made it easier for me to accomplish my work because without having any of this information it would be hard to understand the true dynamic of the region and the specific problems that individuals of the region face. The well-rounded experience of the region the Program offers is one of the biggest advantages that I have at my work because I can make sure that all the voices of the region are included. I actively argue for the inclusion of focus groups from small Caribbean nations, Indigenous groups, and Afro-descendant groups because I’ve had the opportunity to learn about their long rich history through the many LACS class offered. Overall, I am very proud to be not only a SUNY New Paltz alumni but a LACS alum.

Solidarity and Resistance Events



We organized several events and activities to support Latinx students on our campus during a time of growing cultural anxiety around immigration and deportation. These events included a “Know Your Rights/Conoce tus derechos!” teach-in by Hudson Valley attorney and advocate Miryam Antunez De Mayolo held at the Museo Escolar, a conversation on the deportation consequences of a criminal conviction in the United States with advocate Khalil Cumberbatch and attorney Robert Horne (top left), and an exhibition of Photography major Kimberly Roa on the experiences of undocumented students and staff on our campus. (top left)

Follow LACS On:

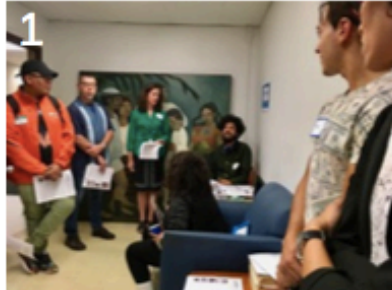


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LACS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Photos 1-3 "Fall 2016 LACS Reception in El Museo Escolar (September 28, 2016)"
Photos 4-5 "Prof. Greg Mitchell from Williams College presents his research on sex tourism in Brazil (November 1, 2016)"
Photo 6 "LACS secretary Cookie Chandler receives recognition from LA&S (May 9, 2017)"
Photo 7 "Prof. Sharina Maillo-Pozo presenting her research on campus (April 5, 2017)"
Photos 8-11 "LACS Graduating Seniors at 2017 Commencement"

LACS Faculty

Christopher Albi	History
Ligia Aldana	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Cesar Barros	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Cruz Bueno	Black Studies
Nicole Carr	Black Studies
Devon Duhaney	Secondary Education
Laura Ebert	Economics
Paul Fenouillet	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Patricia Fitzpatrick	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Benjamin Junge	Anthropology
Joel Lefkowitz	Political Science
Sharina Maillo-Pozo	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Phil Mauceri	Political Science
Denise Oliver-Velez	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Jessica Pabon	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Jerry Persaud	Digital Media & Journalism
Luz Porras	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Deyanira Rojas-Sosa	Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Anne Roschelle	Sociology
Roberto Velez-Velez	Sociology

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