



Latin America
Specialty Group

CLAG/LASG NEWSLETTER

Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) and AAG's Latin America Specialty Group (LASG)

Timothy B Norris - Editor

CLAG is heading to Costa Rica! Come with Us!

San José, Costa Rica | 20-24 May 2018

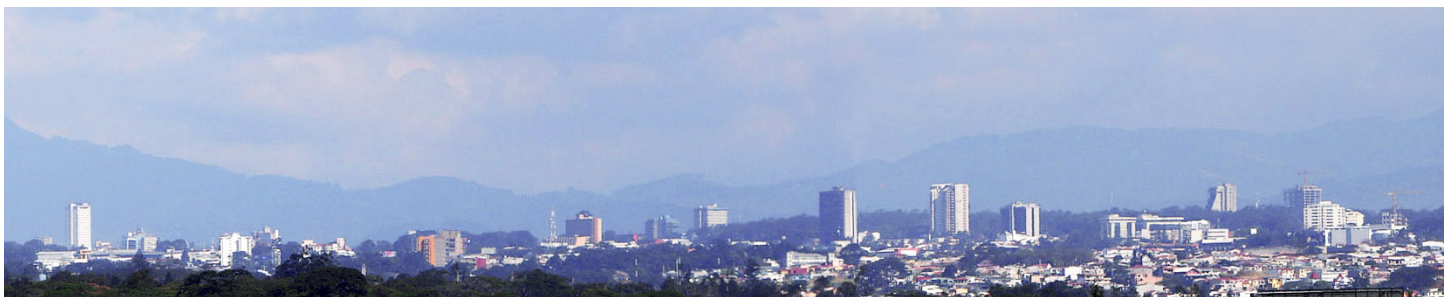
Theme: Geographic Research in 21st Century Latin America

Tema: La Investigación Geográfica de América Latina en el Siglo XXI

Three easy steps to attend:

1. Register to attend: <http://clag2018costarica.ku.edu/registration>
2. Submit an abstract: <http://clag2018costarica.ku.edu/submissions>
3. Reserve a room at the conference hotel: <http://clag2018costarica.ku.edu/hotel>

More information on page 4



CLAG Correspondence:

<http://clagscholar.org/communications@clagscholar.org>



@CLAGGeography #CLAGScholar



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conference-of-Latin-Americanist-GeographersCLAG/195858177122376>

LASG Correspondence:

<http://community.aag.org/lasg/>



<https://www.facebook.com/AAGLASG/>

CLAG Board Members

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 CLAG Vice Chair: **Brad Jokisch** - jokisch@ohio.edu - Ohio University
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 Communications Coordinator: **Timothy Norris** - tnorris@miami.edu - University of Miami

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 Matthew Taylor - U. Denver

* terms end on June 30 of year indicated

LASG Officers

LASG Chair: **Johnny Finn** - john.finn@cnu.edu - Christopher Newport University
 LASG Vice Chair: **Federica Bono** - federica.bono@kuleuven.be - University of Leuven
 Secretary: **Denielle Perry** - denielle.perry@nau.edu - Northern Arizona University



Federica Bono



Denielle Perry

Letter from the Executive Director

Andrew Sluyter

Dear CLAG Members,

As I close out my third and final year as Executive Director, I give thanks to all members for making my time in the position so enjoyable, but especially those who during that period served on the Executive Committee — Karl Offen, Kendra McSweeney, Rob Kent, Rebecca Clouser, and Brad Jokisch.

We have accomplished a lot together, with every expectation for even greater things ahead. Over the past three years CLAG has increased from 187 members to 258, meeting a goal set when I started in January of 2015 to get membership back to over 250 for the first time since 2010. Just as importantly, we have made a demographic transition, with a much larger proportion of student members than three years ago. An important part of that process has been an increased social media presence and rejuvenated website, thanks to Catherine Nolin, Alexandra Pedersen, Matt Fry and, now, Tim Norris. Changes at the *Journal of Latin American Geography* have also played a central role, led by Chris Gaffney as editor, including an increase in page size and font, a beautiful color cover, and engaging content. Our colleagues at the Latin American Specialty Group of the AAG, led by Claudia Radel and Johnny Finn during that period, have been wonderful allies in our efforts.

Consequently, CLAG is intellectually and financially healthy. As one indicator, we have more funds than ever before to support the next generation of Latin Americanist geographers, meaning our graduate student members. In 2010 we made just three research awards and two travel awards to attend the CLAG conference, held in Bogotá that year. In 2017, we made eight travel awards of \$500 each to attend the conference in New Orleans and eight research awards of \$1000-\$1500 each.

Support for graduate student research and conference travel represents only one way that CLAG has fostered geographic education and research

on Latin America since 1970. CLAG plays a small role in the resistance to the current wave of dismaying assaults on universities, intellectuals, social equity, environmental protection, civil rights, international cooperation, scholarship, and diversity. I believe we will do even more in coming years, such as the establishment in 2018 of a JLAG Lecture at the annual AAG conference that will bring thought leaders and activists from Latin America and the Caribbean to North America so that we may better learn from them.

I know many of us are looking forward to reuniting once again in New Orleans, albeit this time at the AAG conference rather than our own, to discuss all of these wonderful developments and plan even more. See you there -- soon!

With
thanks,

Andrew
Sluyter

CLAG
Executive
Director





CLAG 2018 in San Jose, Costa Rica!

May 20-24 (Sunday - Thursday)

In celebration of the 35th Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, we invite all geographers, scholars from other disciplines, and professionals doing geographical research and applied work on Latin America to present their results. We hope research presentations will show the breadth of novel and essential research and applied work being done throughout Latin America.

We encourage you as participants to form special sessions with your colleagues doing related research. Presenters may publish their presentations in the *Revista Geográfica de América Central*.

The conference hotel and venue for the events listed below is the Holiday Inn Aurola in downtown San José, Costa Rica.

35th CLAG Schedule (Tentative)

February 28, 2018 11:59pm

Deadline to submit abstracts, posters, organized panels, or paper sessions *

Deadline to apply for student travel awards

May 20, 2018 (Sunday)

1:00-8:00pm: Registration

7:30-9:30pm: Welcome and Keynote

May 21, 2018 (Monday)

7:30am-7:00pm: Registration

8:00am--6:40pm: Concurrent Sessions

6:40pm-evening: Dine out in San José

May 22 (Tuesday)

7:00am-8:00pm: Registration

8:00am-6:40pm: Concurrent Sessions

7:30pm-9:30pm: Awards Reception and Keynote

May 23 (Wednesday)

7:30am-noon: Information table in lobby

8:00am-8:00pm: Field trips depart; day trips return

May 24 (Thursday)

Overnight field trips return

* Registrations will be accepted after this deadline, but will incur a surcharge. Late registrants will not be eligible to present papers.

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3. Reserve a room at the conference hotel: <http://clag2018costarica.ku.edu/hotel>

Letter from the CLAG Chair

Kendra McSweeney

Dear CLAG Members,

As 2017 comes to a close, relations between the U.S. government, the Latinx community, and Latin America seem as frayed as they've been in a long time. DACA students are stuck in limbo; deportations of law-abiding undocumented immigrants are up; relations with Cuba are moving backward; half of Puerto Rico remains without electricity almost two months after Hurricane Maria—the list goes on. At the same time, though, we're also seeing inspiring ways in which average citizens in the U.S. are fighting to maintain sanctuary protections for friends and neighbors, and to support rebuilding in Puerto Rico. Allies across the hemisphere are uniting in the fight for justice for communities facing rapacious international investments in mining, drug enforcement, hydroelectric development and much more.

CLAG is uniquely positioned—as an international organization of geographers focusing on Latin America—to contribute centrally to documenting and understanding these developments in their spatial and historical contexts. And so we are. The pages of JLAG exemplify the trenchant analyses we offer—just check out the [latest issue](#), including the multi-media and 'on-line first' [JLAG Perspectives](#) section. And don't miss our new web content featuring [Field Study Award winners](#), which shows the many ways in which are student members are engaging these changing social, ecological, and physical landscapes (see summaries too in this newsletter). JLAG will soon inaugurate a new section, 'Notes from the Field,' to further highlight CLAG-sponsored student research. Many thanks to the JLAG Editorial team (led by Chris Gaffney), and our new Communications Coordinator, Tim Norris, for all their hard work on this.

Also, the new "JLAG Lecture Series" at the AAG will be an annual event to better showcase JLAG, CLAG and Latin American 'thought leaders' to the broader geography community. This year's speaker is Cuban agronomist and sustainable agriculture advocate

Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote, whose visit is being coordinated by JLAG Editorial Member and LASG Chair Johnny Finn.

In May, we'll share our latest scholarship in San José, Costa Rica, at the [35th Annual CLAG conference](#). Registration is ongoing and will continue through February. Organized jointly by the Dr. Peter Herlihy at the University of Kansas and Dr. Lilliam Quiros Arias, Director of the Escuela de Ciencias Geográficas at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), expect wonderful accommodations in the heart of San José, great fieldtrips, and opportunities for relaxed and sustained conversations with an unusually inclusive and exciting participant mix, including the CLAG community as well as geography scholars and allied researchers and practitioners from across Central America. And remember: original papers are invited for a special issue of *Revista Geográfica de América Central*. Students: need support to attend? In early 2018, look out for the call to apply for a [Student Travel Grant](#) to help offset the costs of conference participation.

And last but not least, many thanks to Andrew Sluyter for his three years of exemplary service to CLAG as our Executive Director. During his tenure, CLAG membership has surged and our community seems more vibrant than ever. Under his organization, our meeting in New Orleans was an unmitigated success. Thank you Andrew! (We will soon be announcing the results of the CLAG-Board's process to elect a new Executive Director, whose term will begin January 1.)

Kendra McSweeney

CLAG Chair

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The Journal of Latin American Geography (JLAG) &
The Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)
present the

2018 JLAG Lecture

Farming Like We're Here to Stay

Dr. Fernando
Funes
Monzote

The Journal of Latin American Geography (JLAG) is proud to present Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote as the inaugural JLAG Lecturer. Funes Monzote is a Cuban agro-ecologist and farmer whose research on sustainable agriculture and rural development in Cuba is widely cited both within and beyond the discipline of geography. After a short but productive academic career, Funes Monzote bought a small farm outside of Havana. In the five years since, he has turned the farm into a laboratory for agro-ecology and sustainable agricultural practices, maintained by equal parts horticulture, apiculture, and agro-tourism.

Dr. Funes Monzote received his M.S. in Agro-Ecology and Sustainable Rural Development from the International University of Andalucía in 1998, and his Ph.D. in Production Ecology and Resource Conservation from Wageningen University in 2008.

Thursday, April 12, 2018
New Orleans, LA

Lecture will immediately precede the
LASG/CLAG Business Meeting
Specific time and place t.b.a.

Sponsored by: The Latin America Specialty Group of the AAG

Letter from the LASG Chair

Johnny Finn

Dear LASG Members,

Greetings from Newport News, Virginia. Once again it's an honor to write this letter as the Chair of the AAG's Latin America Specialty Group. Many thanks to Federica Bono (Vice Chair) and Denielle Perry (Secretary-Treasurer) for their continued service.

We're excited about the coming AAG meeting in New Orleans in April, and I look forward to seeing many of you in person there. In preparation for that meeting there is actually quite a bit of housekeeping. I'll use the space here to outline these items, and you'll hear more from me in the coming weeks *via* the LASG discussion board.

LASG will sponsor many paper and panel sessions. One of the benefits of sponsorship is that it helps avoid overlap among LASG-sponsored sessions. If you're organizing a session that relates in any way to the mission of LASG, we'd love to sponsor it. In the weeks leading up to the conference we will circulate a complete list of all LASG-sponsored sessions.

I'm excited to report that among those LASG-sponsored sessions will be the inaugural JLAG Lecture featuring Fernando Funes Monzote, a Cuban agro-ecologist and farmer (see the opposite page). We are working with the AAG to schedule the lecture immediately preceding the LASG/CLAG business meeting, which *should* take place in the evening of Thursday, April 12 (specific time and location TBA). As is customary, our business meeting will be followed by our joint social event. Stay tuned for details, but as always, it will *definitely* include drink tickets.

Next, in the coming weeks we will be circulating calls for submissions to our various student awards. Submission deadline will be March 1, 2018. We have adjusted the total award sizes in order to put more emphasis (and money!) toward the field study awards. Then, as an added incentive for the PhD-level paper award, the winning paper will once again be eligible for automatic submission for peer review in *The Journal of Latin American Geography*. Currently we have five awards: Field Study Award, PhD (\$1,000); Field Study Award,

MA (\$500); Best Paper Award, PhD (\$200 + JLAG submission); Best Paper Award, MA (\$100); Best Paper Award, co-author (\$100). I strongly encourage all graduate students to consider submitting proposals and/or completed papers for these awards.

Third, my term as the LASG Chair, and Federica's and Denielle's terms as Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, will expire as of July 1, 2018. Since nominations cannot be made in advance, I will circulate information about elections in the months leading up to New Orleans in hopes of attracting people to the business meeting to be nominated (or nominate themselves!) for these important leadership positions.

We will also need to nominate and elect up to three new "Directors." These positions were created several years ago to establish more graduate student representation on the LASG Board of Directors. That said, the duties of the Director(s) were never specified. In addition to elections in New Orleans for this position, I will also bring to the floor a proposal to establish the duties of the Director(s) which will include assisting the CLAG Communications Coordinator with the biannual CLAG/LASG Newsletter and other related duties.

Finally, I'm happy to report that as of November 20, 2017, LASG has a total of 573 members. Of this total number, nearly 30% are international members, including 101 members from Latin America (including Puerto Rico). Importantly, 275 of our members – 48% of our total membership – are students. This portrait of our membership demonstrates both how important students are in our specialty group, and the international breadth of our membership, especially in Latin America.

I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans!

Best,

Johnny Finn
LASG Chair, 2016-2018
john.finn@cnu.edu



Journal of Latin American Geography

Editorial Team Update

Estimadxs CLAGistxs,

Hopefully you will have had a chance to read the latest issue of JLAG. The editorial team and I are very pleased with Volume 16 and have some surprises up our collective sleeves for 2018. We will be introducing a new section in 17(1), presenting three special issues, hosting the inaugural JLAG lecture at the AAG in New Orleans, as well as sponsoring sessions at CLAG Costa Rica dedicated to the future of JLAG. As ever, we are looking for collaborators, your input, your support, and the downloading of articles. Additionally, we depend on our membership to introduce JLAG to the far reaches of the Americas, to help bring multidisciplinary perspectives to our pages, and to make the journal as inclusive and plural as possible. This is your journal, help us make it what you would like it to be.

Saludos Cordiales,

Christopher Gaffney

Editor



Latin American Studies Book Series

Call for book proposals and manuscripts

Please remember that CLAG collaborates with Springer-Nature to publish “[Springer Briefs in Latin American Studies](http://www.springer.com/series/14332).” It is a great place for manuscripts too short for a lengthy book but too long for a journal article to submit to JLAG. Several CLAG members have published graduate theses and other short manuscripts in it, as you can see at the following link:

<http://www.springer.com/series/14332>.

Another option, for longer manuscripts, is the “[The Latin American Studies Book Series](http://www.springer.com/series/15104).” (<http://www.springer.com/series/15104>).

To submit a proposal or manuscript, please contact asluyter@lsu.edu.

Andrew Sluyter – CLAG Executive Director



New Publications: Papers/Reports/Book Chapters:

- Astier, M., Jorge Quetzal Argueta, Quetzalcóatl Orozco-Ramírez, María Virginia González Santiago, Jaime Morales Hernández, Peter R.W. Gerritsen, Miguel Escalona, Rosado May, Julio Sánchez Escudero, Tomas Martínez Saldaña, Cristóbal Daniel Sánchez Sánchez, René Arzuffi Barrera, Federico Castrejón Ayala, Helda Morales, Lorena Soto Pinto, Ramón Mariaca Méndez, Bruce Ferguson, Peter Rosset, Hugo Magdaleno Ramírez Tobías, Ramón Jarquin Gálvez and Mirna Ambrosio. 2017. Back to the roots: understanding current agroecological movement, science and practice in Mexico. *Agroecology and sustainable food systems* (41), 3-4: 329-348. DOI-: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2017.1287809>
- Bell, M.G. " 'Wheat is the nerve of the whole republic': spatial histories of a European crop in colonial Lima, Peru (1535-1705)," *Journal of Historical Geography*, 2018, 59, 40-51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2017.10.002>
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- Delgado, Elvin. 2017. From *Wetland* to *Saltland*: Natural Obstacles and Socio-Ecological Consequences in the Production of Solar Salt in Venezuela. *Society & Natural Resources*, Vol. 30(7): 797-811.
- Elbow, Gary S. 2018. Greater Caribbean Regional Identity. In *Scaling Identities: Nationalism and Territoriality*, eds. G. H. Herb and D. H. Kaplan, eds. 123-35. Lanham, MD. Rowan & Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442264762

- Escobar Torio, Jeremy John and Tam, Chui-Ling. (2017). Indigenous Power Struggles in the Peruvian Amazon: A Spatio-Cultural Analysis of Communication. *Environmental Communication*.
Published online on 2 October 2017. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17524032.2017.1371055>.
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- Franch-Pardo, I., Luis Cancer-Pomar, and Brian M. Napoletano. 2017. Visibility analysis and landscape evaluation in Martin River Cultural Park (Aragon, Spain) integrating biophysical and visual units. *Journal of Maps* 13: 415-424. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17445647.2017.1319881>.
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- González Arquerros, L., L. M.E. Mendoza Y L. Vázquez Selem. 2017. Human impact on natural systems modeled through soil erosion in GeoWEPP: a comparison between pre-Hispanic periods and modern times in the Teotihuacan Valley (central Mexico). *Catena* 149: 505-513. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.catena.2016.07.028>.
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Tyler Flockhart, D. T., Lincoln P. Brower, M. Isabel Ramírez, Keith A. Hobson, Leonard I. Wassenaar, Sonia Altizer, D. Ryan Norris. 2017. Regional climate on the breeding grounds predicts variation in the natal origin of monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico over 38 years. *Global Change Biology* (23) 7: 2565-2576. <https://10.1111/gcb.13589>.

Wigle, Jill. 2017. De Áreas Verdes a Zonas Grises: Gobernanza del Espacio y Asentamientos Irregulares en Xochimilco, Ciudad de México, in Antonio Azuela (Ed.) *La Ciudad y Sus Reglas: Sobre la Huella del Derecho en el Orden Urbano*. Mexico City: Instituto de Investigaciones, UNAM and PAOT.

New Publications: Books

Oliveira, Gustavo de L. T. and Susanna B. Hecht (eds) (2018). *Soy, Globalization, and Environmental Politics in South America*. Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Soy-Globalization-and-Environmental-Politics-in-South-America/Oliveira-Hecht/p/book/9781138296916>

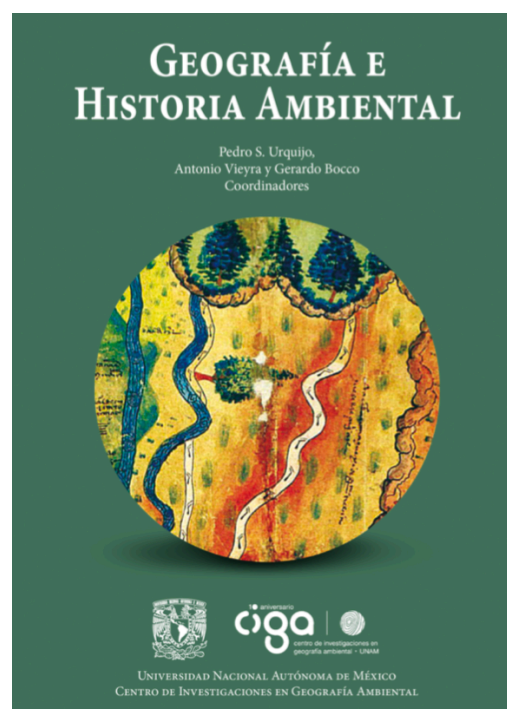
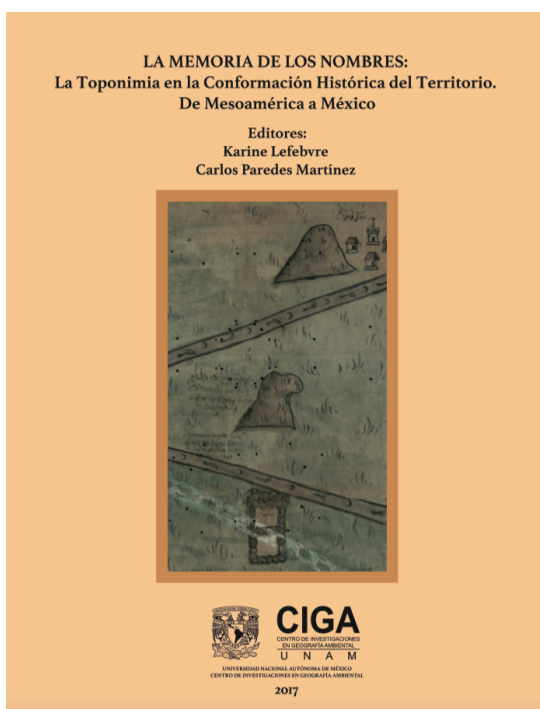
Lefebvre, K., C. Paredes-Martínez (Coord.). (2017). *La memoria de los nombres: la toponimia en la conformación histórica del territorio. De Mesoamérica a México*. CIGA-UNAM. Morelia, México. ISBN: 978-607-02-9048-0. 475 págs. <http://www.ciga.unam.mx/index.php/publicaciones/item/46-la-memoria-de-los-nombres>

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Hecht and Oliveira



Wolfe, Byron and Scott Brady (2017). *Phantom Skies and Shifting Ground: Landscape, Culture, and Rephotography in Eadweard Muybridge's Illustrations of Central America*. Temple University Press/Radius Books. phantomskies.com



After four hundred years, four earthquakes, and at least five names, La Catedral de Antigua, Guatemala. Right: Byron Wolfe, 2005. Left: Eadweard Muybridge, 1875-76. Cathedral–Antigua. Courtesy Department of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries.

New Publications: Special Issues

Special Issue in the journal *Human Geography*. Geographies of Contemporary Cuba, Vol. 10, No. 3 (published November 2017), Edited by Cynthia Pope and John C. Finn, available at: www.hugeog.com

- Cynthia Pope and John C. Finn, Editor's Introduction: Geographies of Contemporary Cuba
- Mario Reinaldo Machado. Alternative to What? Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, and Cuba's Agricultural Revolution
- Frank Marshalek, Cuban and Danish Agriculture, the Rochdale Principles, and the Renovation of Socialism
- Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt, Art and the Subject in Revolutionary Cuba
- Robert Huish, Why Cuban Solidarity was Ebola's Antidote: How Cuban Medical Internationalism is radically changing Health Geographies in the Global South
- Michael K. Steinberg, Hemingway's Cuban Landscape
- María Alejandra Pérez, Conferencing Cuba's Geographies of Speleology: The Politics of Inclusion and Hospitality among Cave Explorers and Scientists
- Ted A. Henken and Gabriel Vignoli, A Taste of Capitalism? Competing Notions of Cuban Entrepreneurship in Havana's Paladares
- Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo, Cubanography for Dummies.



CLAG/LASG Member News

Awards and Honors:

UNBC Geography Chair **Dr. Catherine Nolin** nominated **Fredy Peccerelli**, Executive Director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), for an Honorary Doctor of Laws at UNBC. The nomination was successful and on May 26th, Mr. Peccerelli participated in the afternoon Convocation in Prince George, BC. Fredy is recognized for the dedication of his life to upholding human rights and dignity through the application of forensic sciences. Peccerelli is an internationally renowned and recognized Human Rights Defender and Forensic Anthropologist, and founding member of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG). As the organization's Executive Director, he leads the development and implementation of a Multidisciplinary Human Identification System that applies victim investigation, forensic-archaeology, -anthropology, and -genetics to uncover the identity of victims of mass human rights abuses.



<https://www.unbc.ca/releases/43165/stewart-peccerelli-scheduled-receive-honorary-degrees>

<https://www.unbc.ca/events/43313/memory-truth-justice-searching-disappeared-missing>

<http://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/local-news/panel-film-address-crimes-against-humanity-1.20160470>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/guatemalan-researcher-urges-speedy-resolve-to-missing-and-murdered-women-cold-cases-1.4130236>

(article and audio of CBC interview)

Fredy Peccerelli also received an honorary Doctor of Science from Queen's University (Kingston, ON, Canada) in June 2017 upon nomination by Dr. W. George Lovell (Queen's University) and Catherine Nolin, supported by CLAGistas Alexandra Pedersen and Erica Henderson. Exciting times!

Laura C. Schneider, Associate Professor and Graduate Director in the Department of Geography at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Fellowship to work at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, in Bogotá. The fellowship title is Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and is for Spring 2018. The title of the project is: *Mapping the spatial configuration of landscapes in the Orinoquía region of Colombia and modeling potential landscape change in an era of post-conflict.*



¡Oye! CLAG member and emeritus newsletter editor, **Alexandra Pedersen**, has had her research on abuses by a Canadian mining company in Guatemala selected for exhibition at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. You can find a summary at the below link and vote for the people's choice award. ¡Felicitaciones, Alexandra!

<https://photo.humanrights.ca/photocontest/detail/human-rights-and-environment/landscapes-of-resistance-to-canadian-mining-operations-in-guatemala/>

In July 2017 **Derrick Hindery** (Associate Professor of International Studies, University of Oregon), **Dr. Wendy Townsend** (University of Florida), **Dr. Marisol Toledo** (Director of the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum Santa Cruz, Bolivia) and **Dr. Daniel de Paiva Silva** (Native Bee Ecologist, Instituto Federal Goiano – IFGoiano, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Urutaí - Goiás – Brazil) were awarded a grant from Future Earth for their project titled “Cross-pollinating knowledge systems: exploring indigenous local knowledge about native bee diversity and ecology”: (<http://futureearth.org/news/announcing-winners-grants-programme-biodiversity-research>). It is one of five projects awarded funding in the first round of the Program for Early-stage Grants Advancing Sustainability Science (PEGASuS), which supports research on questions critical to human wellbeing – from sustainable farming to the loss of mountain biodiversity. Dr. Townsend is the Principal Investigator.

Notes from the Field:

John Kelly with University of Wisconsin La Crosse Geography and Earth Science Associate Professor **Colin Belby** teamed up with UWL biologist **Gretchen Gerrish** and undergraduate geography student **Karl Radke** to map habitat features at high resolution in the South Water Caye Reserve, Belize. The team used hydroacoustic and GPS technologies to map currents, depths, and substrate type (coral, sand, and sea grass) to identify the physical barriers influencing ostracod movements through the reserve.

Diana L. Restrepo-Osorio, geography PhD student at the University of Kansas and a Geography Student Trainee at the Surface Water and Water Studies Unit of the U.S. Geological Survey, attended the XI Encuentro de Ganaderos de Pastizales Naturales del Cono Sur de Sudamérica in the department of Itapúa, Paraguay from October 24 to October 28, 2017.

During this cattle ranching meeting she carried out interviews regarding the perceptions of Paraguayan, Uruguayan, Argentinian and Brazilian stakeholders regarding the hydrological ecosystem services provided by native pastures used in cattle ranching operations.



Diana interviews two Argentinian cattle ranchers associated with the Grassland Alliance.

This annual meeting is put together by the Grassland Alliance (Alianza del Pastizal) of the Southern Cone of South America.

Several University of Arizona graduate students were in the field in Latin America during summer 2017. **Megan Mills-Novoa** worked as an intern for UNDP in Panama preparing a report on their adaptation projects in Latin America. **Talia Anderson** was collecting tree ring data in Guatemala and recently presented her research to forest managers and community members in Totonicapán, Guatemala regarding the unique perspective tree rings provide on the long-term preservation of the locally managed communal forests and what their association with climate can tell us about forest vulnerability in the face of a changing climate. **Niki Von Hederman** was supported by an NSF DDRI grant and PEO scholarship to complete her fieldwork on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Guatemala and **Miriam Gay-Antaki** completed her dissertation on gender and climate including Mexican case studies and is teaching at Colorado College this year. **Fiona Gladstone** is currently a Borlaug scholar studying food systems in Oaxaca, Mexico and **Sarah Kelly-Richards** is completing her dissertation on hydropower and indigenous rights in Chile. Faculty members **Kevin Anchukaitis**, **Jeff Banister**, **Carl Bauer**, **Stephanie Buechler**, **Diana Liverman**, **Liz Oglesby**, **Tracey Osborne**, **Chris Scott**, and **Margaret Wilder** all have ongoing projects in Latin America with topics ranging from climate reconstruction, mitigation and impacts, water, gender, and human rights.

With support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), **Christian Abizaid** (University of Toronto) returned to Peru this past summer to conduct fieldwork for his ongoing research on floodplain dynamics and riverine livelihoods along the Ucayali River. During his time in Peru, he shared some results from the Peruvian Amazon Rural Livelihoods and Poverty (PARLAP) project, on the state of fisheries in riverine communities in the Department of Ucayali. The talk was organized by the Regional Directorate of Production of Ucayali, within the context of the annual encounter to commemorate the week of the fisherman in the Department of Ucayali (June 25-30). The event was attended by regional government officials, representatives of regional fishermen organizations, indigenous representatives, academics and students. PARLAP is co-led by **Oliver Coomes**, **Yoshito Takasaki** and Christian Abizaid.



Christian Abizaid with staff from the Regional Directorate of Production of Ucayali.



Catherine Nolin (UNBC) was in Guatemala with her research partner **Grahame Russell** (Rights Action & Adjunct faculty in Geography) for a follow-up research trip for their book project "Mining in a Time of Impunity in the Aftermath of Guatemala's Genocide: The Violence of Contemporary Predatory Mineral Exploitation." Documentary photographer James Rodríguez and journalist Sandra Cuffe collaborated on the fieldwork and community interviews. In addition to interviewing community members, land defenders, lawyers, and human rights activists, the team members also were privileged to attend the 35th anniversary commemoration of the Los Encuentros massacre at the place of the events on May 14, 1982.

Adib Cure, **Carie Penebad** (not in picture), **Chris Mader**, **Timothy Norris**, and **Amin Sarafraz** (University of Miami) were selected to exhibit their project "Digital Mapping of Informal Settlements" at the ACCElerate Creativity and Innovation Festival, National Museum of American History – Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, October 13-15. The work exhibited uses drones to capture stunning high-resolution orthographic images that can be combined with known participatory mapping methods to provide tools for sustainable development in the urban environment. The pilot work shown is from Santa Cruz de Islote and Barranquilla in Colombia, Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, and the Harbor Island in the Bahamas. Architecture, Computational Science and Urban Geography!



Recent Graduates and New Positions

Congratulations to the following people who successfully defended their theses and dissertations:

Dr. Diego Pons, Exploring Historical Coffee and Climate Relations in Southern Guatemala: An Integration of Tree Ring Analysis and Remote Sensing Data. University of Denver, Department of Geography and the Environment, August 17th 2017. Supervisor: Matthew Taylor.

Thania Gómez. Maestría en Ciencias en Desarrollo Rural Regional, Universidad Autónoma Chapingo. "Problemática socio-ambiental del agua potable y desarrollo local en San Juan Atzingo, México". Advisor: Beatriz de la Tejera.

Erica Henderson 2017. Seeking Justice in Guatemala: Dignifying the 'Disappeared' in a Context of Impunity. MA thesis, Interdisciplinary Studies. University of Northern British Columbia. Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/737561279753590/>

Jaime Octavio Loya Carrillo. Maestría en Geografía. Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental, UNAM. "Análisis del proceso de deforestación en el Estado de Michoacán: De lo espacial a lo social". Advisor: Jean Francois Mas.

Congratulations to the following people who are in new positions:

Richard N. Gioioso (Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA) was appointed Director of the Latin American Studies Program, effective June 1, 2017.

Héctor Agredano, Doctoral Candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center accepted a full-time position as Geography Instructor at Pasadena City College in California.

William Pestle, Professor of Anthropology, University of Miami, was appointed director of the Latin American Studies Program at the University of Miami.



Jessika Osorio (FAFG), Catherine Nolin, Erica Henderson & Fredy Peccerelli (FAFG)



Adrienne Johnson (PhD, Clark University '15) will start her new position as Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of San Francisco in January 2018. Currently, she is a postdoc at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University in Toronto.

Elvin Delgado (Central Washington University) has been appointed Associate Professor, Department of Geography at Central Washington University, effective May 2017.

Denielle Perry (Northern Arizona University) began her new position as Assistant Professor at the School of Earth Sciences & Environmental Sustainability in August, 2017.

Adrienne Johnson

CLAG Field Study Award Winners, 2017

Winners of the 2017 PhD field study awards:

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
Nikolai Alvarado , PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of Denver.	<i>Migrant Politics in the Global South City: The Political Strategies of Nicaraguan Migrants to Secure Housing and Basic Services in the Urban Informal Settlement of La Carpio, in San José, Costa Rica.</i>
Carlos Dobler Morales , PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University	<i>Climate change meets the land-sparing/sharing debate: a study of droughts and land-use segregation in the Southern Yucatan, Mexico.</i>
Sisimac Duchicela , PhD Student, Department of Geography and the Environment, UT-Austin	<i>Ecological Restoration as a Means for Alternative Development in the Ecuadorian Andes Northwest Andean mountain range, Ecuador.</i>
Araby Smyth , PhD student, Geography, University of Kentucky.	<i>Gender and Remittances: Lived experiences of women in Oaxaca, Mexico.</i>
Samantha M. Krause , PhD Candidate: Department of Geography and the Environment, UT Austin.	<i>Wetland Agroecosystems in the Maya Lowlands: LiDAR and Multi-Proxy Environmental Change.</i>
Caroline Parks , PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of Florida.	<i>The Changing Dynamics between Smallholders and Ranchers in Agrarian Reform Settlements in the South of Pará.</i>

Winners of the 2017 Masters field study awards:

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
Brenna Sweetman , Geography, University of Alabama.	<i>Analysis of Water Quality in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Belize: a case study of human impacts on a diverse and critical marine landscape, Punta Gorda, Belize.</i>
Rebecca Patterson-Markowitz , Geography, University of Arizona.	<i>Co-Producing Healing in Post-Conflict Guatemala: a Case Study, Guatemala City, Guatemala.</i>
Jennifer Langhill , Dept of Geography and Planning and the School of the Environment, University of Toronto	<i>Gendered Experiences of Climate Change: Coping with High Flooding in the Peruvian Amazon, Department of Ucayali, Peru.</i>
Sara Eshleman , Geography, UT-Austin.	<i>Mechanisms for the distribution of Cohune Palm, Orange Walk District, Belize.</i>

*** * * CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS * * ***

**Latin America Specialty Group
Field Study and Best Paper Awards**

Submission Deadline: March 1, 2018

Field Study Award

The Latin America Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers invites applications for the 2018 LASG Student Field Study Awards. There are separate awards for students at the PhD level (\$1,000) and at the MA/MS level (\$500). These awards are intended to support fieldwork for thesis or dissertation research in Latin America. The award is not intended to cover all fieldwork costs, but rather to assist students working toward their Master's degree to undertake a short period of field research, or to facilitate study site identification and preliminary research for doctoral students undertaking their dissertation research.

Award amounts

1. Field study award at the Ph.D. level: \$1,000
2. Field study award at the Master's level: \$500

Best Paper Award

The Latin America Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers invites paper submissions for the 2018 LASG best student paper awards. These awards are intended to recognize students' contributions to the field of Latin American geography with a modest cash award, and to encourage publication of excellent papers in the *Journal of Latin American Geography* and other scholarly journals. Awards will be given in three categories: 1) best single-authored paper at the Ph.D. level; 2) best single-authored paper at the Master's level; and 3) best co-authored paper. We welcome submissions on a wide range of issues relating to Latin American geography and from the diverse disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields of our membership.

Award amount:

1. Best single-authored paper at the Ph.D. level: \$200 + submission for peer review to the *Journal of Latin American Geography*
2. Best single-authored paper at the Master's level: \$100
3. Best co-authored paper: \$100

To be considered for either award, each student must be a registered graduate student in a geography department or related discipline for at least one semester during the 2017-2018 academic year; in special circumstances, highly qualified undergraduate students may be considered. Regional area of research focus must be within Latin America, including the Caribbean. Student must be a member of LASG in the year in which s/he applies for the award

For more information and specific submission instructions, please go to <http://community.aag.org/lasg/home> and click "Student Awards."

CLAG Field Study Reports

Ph.D. Field Study Reports

Nikolai Alvarado, PhD Student, Dept. of Geography, University of Denver.

Project: *Migrant Politics in the Global South City: The Political Strategies of Nicaraguan Migrants to Secure Housing and Basic Services in the Urban Informal Settlement of La Carpio: San José, Costa Rica.*

My dissertation research looks into the everyday political work of Nicaraguan migrants living in the informal settlement of La Carpio in San Jose, Costa Rica, particularly as they negotiate to obtain property titles and a number of urban services to improve their community.

Surrounded by trash, feces, and two of the most polluted rivers in Costa Rica, La Carpio is a unique case study of environmental racism in an urban Global South context. It is also a unique place to explore the ways in which (insurgent) citizenships, political participation and migration experiences intersect in the struggles for urban justice in the Global South.

Thanks to funds provided by CLAG, I was able to spend my summer exploring these ideas further. I conducted interviews with community leaders, government officials and other actors involved in the everyday work to improve La Carpio.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Alvarado_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf



Caroline Parks, PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of Florida.

Project: *The Changing Dynamics between Smallholders and Ranchers in Agrarian Reform Settlements in the South of Pará.*

This past summer I spent a month in between Belém and Marabá (and smaller towns close to Marabá), to conduct pre-field work for my dissertation research focused on the changing dynamics between smallholders and ranchers. Since this was my first time in the region, and first time meeting potential research partners and participants, I did a lot of listening.

I visited three rural settlements: 26 de Março (in Marabá), Canudos (in Eldorado dos Carajás) and Palmares II (in Parauapebas). At each settlement I stayed for at least two nights, and spoke to a variety of people. In total I visited 9 households, spoke to six social movement leaders and one agricultural extension officer.

See the full report for some of the main findings that were valuable in reshaping my research for when I come back to collect data.

I am very grateful for this opportunity and support provided by the Latin Americanist Geographers!

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Parks_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf





Carlos Dobler Morales, PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University.

Project: *Climate change meets the land-sparing/sharing debate: a study of droughts and land-use segregation in the Southern Yucatan, Mexico.*

The landscape of the southern Yucatan is currently experiencing a regime shift, in which a formerly heterogeneous and dynamic land-use mosaic is being replaced by one that is more stable, where conservation areas are increasingly segregated from agricultural lands. A new question arises: how does a segregated landscape exacerbates (or not) the vulnerability of rural livelihoods to drought?

Precipitation in the Southern Yucatan is characteristically irregular, which manifests in frequent droughts that affect both natural and social systems. Despite its natural variability, the region may be experiencing the harshest drought of the last 30.

The transition that the landscape of Southern Yucatan is going through, from a regime where conservation and agricultural lands essentially share the same space to one where both are strictly segregated, resembles a shift from what scholars refer to as a land-sharing to a land-sparing approach in land-use. Extensive research has elucidated the benefits and costs of each approach, especially in terms of

biodiversity conservation. However, few studies have investigated the implications of each approach for local livelihoods, even less in the face of climatic change. I expect my doctoral dissertation to provide empirical evidence on the trade-offs and synergies of this land-use regime shift under drought conditions.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Dobler_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Sisimac Duchicela, Department of Geography and the Environment, UT-Austin.

Project: *Ecological Restoration as a Means for Alternative Development in the Ecuadorian Andes Northwest Andean mountain range, Ecuador.*

I aim to understand the challenges of ecological restoration in the Andes, the thresholds where ecological restoration is chosen versus other forms of land use, and to test ecological frameworks in a restoration scenario in Andean landscapes. I obtained local guidance from a Peruvian/Ecuadorian NGO called Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), which combines methods in natural, social and GIS sciences in their projects to understand land use change and inform policy.

Restoration in the high Andes presents several challenges, beginning with the heterogeneity of not only the biophysical factors, such as soil type and amount of radiation but also of socioeconomic factors and land tenure affecting the way land is being used. The main goal of restoration in



all the areas visited in some way or another focused on increasing the adaptability for local people to ensure economic resources by mitigating effects of climate change and environmental degradation. A secondary goal in Andean restoration is to ensure ecosystem functioning and for biodiversity conservation.

For this fieldwork, I stayed two months in Ecuador and one week in Peru. From this exploration, I have defined two study sites, Intillacta, Pichincha in Ecuador and the three communities in the Huancavelica department in Peru. These two sites will allow me to understand restoration incentives and to compare these incentives internationally.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Duchicela_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Araby Smyth, PhD student, University of Kentucky.

Project: *Gender and Remittances: Lived experiences of women in Oaxaca, Mexico.*

My research explores the point of negotiation where women's agency and remittance governance intersect in Oaxaca, Mexico. I draw on analyses of remittances in development, transnational families research, and feminist geography to answer two overarching questions: How is remittance governance formulated and negotiated in migrant sending communities? How do negotiations and struggles over remittances shape the lived experiences of women in migrant sending communities?

The Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) supported preliminary research that helped me to establish field sites for my doctoral dissertation research. Building on recurrent trips to Oaxaca since 2015, I traveled to Mexico City, Oaxaca City, Puebla City, and three rural towns from June 9-August 19, 2017.

I visited three potential field sites in Oaxaca and Puebla. Using ethnographic methods like

participant observation and interviews, I learned more about the town where I will likely be doing fieldwork in 2018. I observed human interactions at town meetings, festivals, and other public spaces like basketball courts and health clinics. In these spaces, I spoke with town authorities and women receiving remittances.

Six months ago, I proposed comparative research between two towns, one in Oaxaca and one in Puebla. After this summer, I believe that my research is better suited for a single site. Remittances and how they change family relations is a sensitive matter. Through my discussions with scholars as well as preliminary interviews with women receiving remittances and town authorities, I learned more about the intricacies about how money is received, spent, and what kinds of decision-making processes are behind these actions.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Smyth_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Samantha M. Krause, PhD Candidate: Department of Geography and the Environment, UT Austin.

Project: *Wetland Agroecosystems in the Maya Lowlands: LiDAR and Multi-Proxy Environmental Change.*

My research uses a combination of remote sensing techniques and geoarchaeological methods to better understand the land use history of prehistoric agroecosystems in the Maya Lowlands, a region that extends into



Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala. I target understudied prehistoric agricultural wetlands using a variety of methods: survey and remote sensing, soil stratigraphy, paleoecology, carbon isotopes, elemental geochemistry, and other geoarchaeological techniques.

Through this work, I am answering questions concerning the scale, environmental impact, and types of ancient indigenous wetland management compared to modern wetland management. My research explores the spatial and temporal scales of human occupation, agricultural strategies, and resource depletion within these wetland environments. Through this, I seek to provide new proxy evidence for paleoenvironmental change in these understudied tropical systems.

The first field site that I worked on for my dissertation this past summer was the ancient Maya urban center of Colha within Cobweb Swamp. I was able to collect soil samples around the site for my ongoing research on ancient Maya impacts on soils, as well as lead surveys around the swamp periphery for mapping and water quality sampling.

The second area that I focused on for my summer research was the Birds of Paradise wetland that is located in a watershed within the transboundary region of Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala. In 2016, a consortium of scholars that I am a part of conducted a LiDAR survey of tropical forested wetlands, including the Birds of Paradise wetland. This provided extensive new remotely sensed evidence of anthropogenically modified fluvio-karst systems and wetland agricultural underneath the tropical forest canopy. Using the 2016 lidar survey data, I focused on five new portions of the Birds of Paradise system that we had not previously detected to have prehistoric impacts. I placed excavation units on an occupational surface around the fields, three units on canal/field complexes, and one unit on an anthropogenic berm that could have been

used as a causeway throughout the wetland system.

All of this was made possible by the support and generosity of CLAG.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Krause_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Masters Field Study Reports

Sara Eshleman, Masters Student,
Geography, UT-Austin.

Project: *Mechanisms for the distribution of Cohune Palm, Orange Walk District, Belize.*

I am investigating soil and geomorphological factors connected with cohune palm stands in northwestern Belize. Cohune palms (*Attalea cohune*) form monodominant stands, and consequently affect forest composition, forest heterogeneity, and soil morphology throughout Mesoamerica. Scientists have noted the association of these palm stands with deep and highly organic soils. Yet, we know little about the provenance and broader ecological implications of this dominance.

The 2017 field season for this project consisted of three weeks of intensive field work, resulting in four soil pits and fifty-five soil samples. Through this work I intend to clarify the origins of cohune forests; as well as, monodominant stands' effect on associated



environments, contributing to broader questions concerning tropical forest composition and function.

In addition to the soil collected during this field season, soil samples of three pits from previous years within cohune palm forests will be added to the analysis. The samples exported to the University of Texas at Austin will undergo a series of analyses in the coming weeks. In the field we were recorded magnetic susceptibility and found that the different areas under study have vastly different results. Magnetic susceptibility can indicate burning or a long period of soil formation, which will hopefully be better elucidated by the other analyses. The soils will be analyzed for organic matter, nitrate and nitrogen content, grain size, and elemental composition.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Eshleman_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Jennifer Langill, Masters Student,
Department of Geography and Planning and
the School of the Environment, University of
Toronto

Project: *Gendered Experiences of Climate Change: Coping with High Flooding in the Peruvian Amazon, Department of Ucayali, Peru.*

Riverine communities are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards, such as extreme flooding or extended drought. Climate change research has indicated that these environmental shocks will only increase in the future, making this a critical time to better understand how riverine communities are impacted by these shocks and how they cope.

Building upon prior research in the Peruvian Amazon, my research seeks to answer the following questions, using the 2014 major flooding as an analog: 1. How were community members impacted and what were the axes of differentiation? 2. How did community members cope? 3. To what extent is gender

determinant of coping mechanisms? 4. What role to social networks play in leveraging coping strategies?

Through both quantitative and qualitative methods, I explored possible axes of differentiation, such as males compared to females, elderly compared to youth, people who fish compared to people who do not fish, people born in the community compared to new migrants to the community, and differences in land holdings.



My research indicated differences in how the flood affected individuals and households, and in their approach to coping with the flood. For example, some participants had considerable losses, such as hectares of maize or fruit trees. Other households mentioned few to no impacts of the flood, and were grateful for the extra fish it brought.

In addition to many lines of difference that I explore in my research, some common themes emerged from the interviews and surveys. For example, the floods were commonly associated with many illnesses, such as influenzas and fevers. Moreover, the loss of mobility from not being able to walk outside of the house can mean weeks or months at a time of sitting inside the house or in boats.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Langill_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Rebecca Patterson-Markowitz, Masters Student, School of Geography and Development, University of Arizona.

Project: *Co-Producing Healing in Post-Conflict Guatemala: a Case Study, Guatemala City, Guatemala.*

How societies can and should address the legacies of violence and injustice wrought by conflict is the question at the center of the field and practices of Transitional Justice. Top-down mechanisms often fall short of making adequate repair for the complex lived experiences of trauma that are ongoing in survivors psyches, bodies and communities long after a conflict period has ended. My research sought to gain insight into these on the ground practices of reparations.

With support from CLAG I was able to spend this summer in Guatemala City researching Guatemalan NGOs who are working with survivors of sexual violence from the internal armed conflict to define justice and healing. During my 7 weeks in the field I conducted 15 semi-structured interviews, did participant observation, and collected pertinent institutional literature, which I am now in the process of analyzing for my MA thesis. I will present my findings at the UA Tinker symposium in November and at the American Association of Geographers Conference this spring.



My preliminary findings show that the demands of survivors and organizations alike are shaped by the guarantees of the 1996 Peace

Accords for justice, reparation, and non-repetition. However there exists an array of institutional approaches for deciding what this actually means in practice and how psychological or psychosocial support is provided to survivors. This depends on the training of the individuals that make up the NGOs as well as the institutional situatedness in human rights, feminist, and/or indigenous Maya frameworks

In the larger Guatemalan context there is still an uphill battle for recognition of survivors' rights to repair and recognition of other pervasive inequalities that in part structure the lives of many Guatemalans. This manifests nationally as different narratives of history are still contested, and at the local level, for example in the town of Sepur, where the verdicts of national courts in Guatemala City are questioned and interpreted in different ways. However, there is a sense of hope in the current climate, particularly with the Sepur Zarco victory.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Patterson-Markowitz_2017-CLAG_FieldReport.pdf

Brenna Sweetman, Masters Student, Geography, University of Alabama.

Project: *Analysis of Water Quality in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Belize: a case study of human impacts on a diverse and critical marine landscape, in Punta Gorda, Belize.*

The objectives of my research were to analyze spatial and temporal trends in water quality of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR), Belize from 1998 to 2015 and to determine the efficacy of the marine protected area for improved conservation management. This study was completed using a mixed-methods approach to gain a broad understanding of human impacts on water resources associated with land use change and population growth

Primary threats to coastal water quality in the region have been identified as watershed-based pollution from nutrient fertilizer runoff and sediment from erosion. To address this issue, I analyzed land use land cover of the seven watersheds that drain into PHMR as well as data from Belize census reports to determine population dynamics during the study period. In addition to quantitative data collection, I also collected qualitative data through interviews with local stakeholders regarding their perception of threats to water quality of PHMR and its surrounding watersheds

Overall, the results of my spatial and temporal analyses yielded statistically insignificant results, suggesting little variation in water quality. The results of my land use land cover change in the watersheds of the region indicate a 344% increase in urban and cleared land and a 7% increase in agricultural land during the study period. The qualitative data collected through interviews with local stakeholders identified conversion to agricultural plantations in the Monkey River and Rio



Grande watersheds, the two dominant watersheds, as potential threats to water quality of PHMR.

The opportunity afforded to me by CLAG's support to travel to Belize and conduct this research study for my Master's thesis was an incredibly valuable learning experience for me and an important step forward in my professional career.

http://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Sweetman_2017_CLAG_FieldReport.pdf



Fishing on Tuapi Beach: The Miskitu people of Tuapi, RACCN, Nicaragua rely on bounty of the sea for subsistence and cash income. Most mornings, rain or shine, the beach of Tuapi is lined with family groups pulling shrimp nets and (chinchorros), and larger gill nets (trasmallos). Photo credit: Matthew L. Fahrenbruch.

Opportunities:

Field School Opportunity:

UNBC Geography Field School to Guatemala, May 2018 – open to senior undergraduate & graduate students in Canada & US

This field school is an intensive, interdisciplinary field school examines geographical approaches to rights, power, and 'development' as they relate to issues of political & structural violence experienced by Indigenous peoples, labour organizations, & social movements in Guatemala. Land is central to all conflicts and visions for the future. Examinations of scholarly, alternative, and grassroots accounts of structural violence in this country allow us to discuss critically issues of state terror, repression, geographical approaches to studying genocide & the spatiality of life and death.

The first week of the course takes place at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) campus in Prince George, BC, Canada (or via video conferencing for non-UNBC students). Students will prepare for this intense week of classes by reading material made available some time before the course starts in early May 2018. Weeks two and three take place in Guatemala with Grahame Russell of Rights Action and Catherine Nolin of UNBC Geography.

More information and applications (due December 15) are available at: <https://www.unbc.ca/geography/field-schools/guatemala-2018> or contact: Catherine Nolin at catherine.nolin@unbc.ca



Photograph from a day of action against femicide on May 29, 2016. These protests took place in the city of Chimalhuacán in the State of Mexico, the state with the highest rates of femicide in all of Mexico. Photo credit: Héctor Agredano.

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Matthew C. LaFevor, Elisabeth K. Butzer

Medicinal Snow as a Public Good: Indigenous Communities, Merchants, and Justice in Colonial Veracruz, Mexico. pp. 7-28 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0048](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0048)

Emilie Louise Schur

Potable or Affordable?: A Comparative Study of Household Water Security Within a Transboundary Aquifer Along the U.S.-Mexico Border. pp. 29-58 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0051](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0051)

María del Pilar Fuerte Celis, Enrique Pérez Lujan

¡La violencia cambia! Securitización y configuración territorial del crimen organizado en México, 2007–2011. pp. 59-81 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0050](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0050)

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La religión de la infraestructura en las fronteras amazónicas: el caso del Purús. pp. 107-134 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0052](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0052)

Monika Hess, Sabino Ruiz Flores, Urs Geiser

Between Grassroots Expectations, Political Visions, and the Contemporary Local State: The Everyday Challenges of Indigenous/Peasant Organizations in the Bolivian Andes. pp. 135-158 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0047](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0047)

Adryane Gorayeb, Christian Brannstrom, Jocilea de Sousa Mendes, Antonio Jeovah de Andrade Meireles, Leilane Oliveira Chaves, Edson Vicente da Silva

JLAG Perspectives: Videography for Participatory Cartography in a Site of Wind Power Conflict in Coastal Ceará State, Brazil. pp. 159-163 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0049](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0049)



Wind turbines near Guanambi, Bahia state, Brazil, 1 August 2017. Photo credit: Christian Brannstrom

Book Reviews

Craig S. Revels

A Camera in the Garden of Eden: The Self-Forging of a Banana Republic by Kevin Coleman (review). pp. 165-167 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0040](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0040)

Karl Offen

An Aqueous Territory: Sailor Geographies and New Granada's Transimperial Greater Caribbean World by Ernesto Bassi (review). pp. 167-169 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0041](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0041)

James P. Chaney

Corazón de Dixie: Mexicanos in the U.S. South since 1910 by Julie M. Weise (review). pp. 169-172 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0042](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0042)

Jill Stackhouse

Shaping Terrain: City Building in Latin America ed. by René Davids (review). pp. 172-174 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0043](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0043)

Blanca Rebeca Ramírez Velázquez

Neil Smith: Gentrificación urbana y desarrollo desigual [Neil Smith: Urban gentrification and uneven development] ed. by Luz Marina García Herrera and Fernando Sabaté Bel (review). pp. 174-177 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0044](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0044)

Nicholas Jon Crane

The Punitive City: Privatized Policing and Protection in Neoliberal Mexico by Markus-Michael Müller (review). pp. 177-179 | DOI: [10.1353/lag.2017.0045](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0045)

Note from the Newsletter Editor

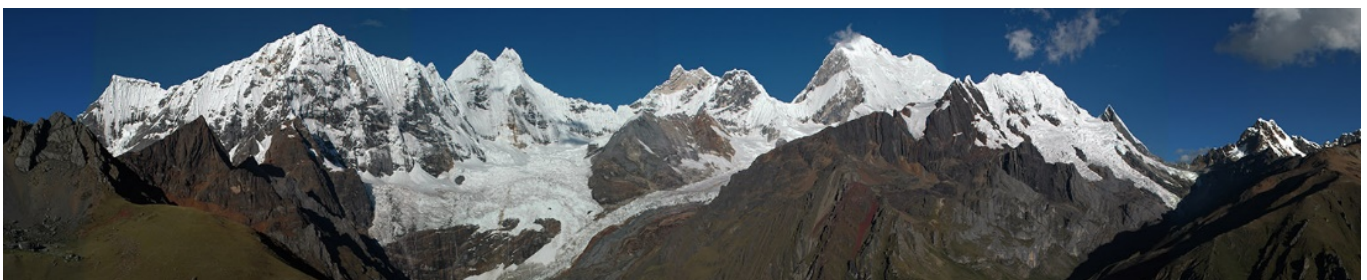
Timothy B Norris



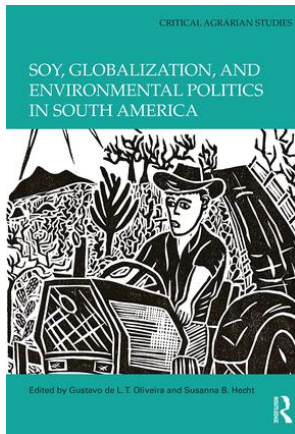
Wow! What a great set of submissions for this newsletter. There is no better way to get a pulse on the academic action in Latin America than to go through this mini-publication of CLAG and the LASG. Hats off and a big thanks to everyone who participated!

As promised, I am putting up new header images on the CLAG website (<http://clagscholar.org/>). You may have to wait for a few carousel changes to see if your submission was included. Also, as promised, I will be putting up credits for those photos in the next few weeks.

Tim Norris – CLAG Communications Coordinator



Cordillera Huayhuash, Ancash, Peru.



Soy, Globalization, and Environmental Politics in South America

Edited by **Gustavo de L. T. Oliveira**, **Susanna B. Hecht**

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368 pages

Hardback: 9781138296916 \$140.00

eBook (VitalSource) : 9781315099651 \$126.00

Soy in South America constitutes one of the most spectacular booms of agro-industrial commodity production in the world. It is the pinnacle of modernist agro-industrial practices, serving as a key nexus in food–feed–fuel production that underpins the agribusiness–conservationist discourse of "land sparing" through intensification. Yet soy production is implicated in multiple problems beyond deforestation, ranging from pesticide drift and contamination to social exclusion and conflicts in frontier zones, to concentration of wealth and income among the largest landowners and corporations. This book explores in depth the complex dynamics of soy production from its diverse social settings to its transnational connections, examining the politics of commodity and knowledge production, the role of the state, and the reach of corporate power in everyday life across soy landscapes in South America. Ultimately, the collection encourages us to search and struggle for agroecological alternatives through which we may overcome the pitfalls of this massive transnational capitalist agro-industry.

This book was originally published as a special issue of *The Journal of Peasant Studies*.



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Susanna B. Hecht is Professor in the Luskin School of Public Affairs, the Institute of the Environment, and the Department of Geography at UCLA, and also Professor at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. She is the author of *Scramble for the Amazon and the lost paradise of Euclides da Cunha* (2013), the award winning *Fate of the forest: developers, destroyers and defenders of the Amazon* (2011, 4th ed.), the editor with Kathy Morrison and Christine Padoch of *The social lives of forests* (2014), among more than 15 other books and numerous articles. Dr. Hecht specializes in the development and political ecology of the Latin American tropics. Email: sbhecht@ucla.edu