



LSA

CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023-2024





ABOUT THE CENTER

The University of Michigan's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) is committed to promoting a broad and deep understanding of the region—its cultures, histories, and peoples. A National Resource Center, LACS serves as the nexus on campus for faculty and students from a range of disciplines who share a common interest in Latin America and the Caribbean. The center's breadth of programming and outreach initiatives fosters scholarly engagement and impactful exchange both nationally and internationally.

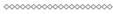
LACS offers an undergraduate major and minor and a graduate certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The center also facilitates dialogue between U-M and the broader community by organizing and supporting conferences, lectures, and performances that are open to the public. A critical space for faculty, students, and community members to learn and share knowledge about the region, LACS partners with units across campus to internationalize education and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

LACS is also home to U-M's Brazil Initiative, a university-wide initiative to promote research, teaching, and activities about Brazil and to foster collaboration with Brazilian institutions and colleagues.



GAVIN ARNALL

Director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures



For LACS, this academic year was one of many exciting transitions, including my own into the role of director. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to get to know and work closely with the faculty, students, and staff affiliated with the center and with the broader International Institute.

Stepping into this role, I knew that I wanted to build upon the center's strengths and existing networks, while also making space for new ideas and perspectives. Program Manager Nestor Barrera and Outreach Coordinator Chris Jensen were instrumental in shaping and realizing this vision.

This was especially the case as we worked together to augment the University of Michigan's longstanding partnership with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). In collaboration with K-12 teachers and our UPR colleagues, we reimagined the Annual Curriculum Development Program to significantly enhance its impact.

LACS organized and co-sponsored over 20 events this year. Many of these events dealt with past and present struggles for liberation, equality, and justice and centered the voices and lived experiences of Black and Indigenous peoples of the region. We proudly offered beginner, intermediate, and advanced language courses in Nahuatl and Quechua, sponsored two Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshops, and awarded 32 students with fellowships and grants to pursue language study, exploratory research, and internship opportunities.

Thanks to a generous donation from Drs. Paul and Simone Boyce, we launched the Boyce

Family Caribbean Studies Grant. We are thrilled to support the academic endeavors of the grant's very first recipients, who will be traveling to and studying in Jamaica, Martinique, and Trinidad and Tobago.

This year we also received a major gift from John T. and Elena M. Stoffel to establish the Martinez-Leary Stoffel Family Support Fund. This fund will enable LACS to facilitate students working directly with Latin American and Caribbean communities and organizations for years to come.

Future plans include developing an Indigenous Studies Program to complement our Indigenous Languages Program; relaunching our journal, *Translating the Americas*, in partnership with colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh; and hosting a scholar-in-residence from Latin America to teach at Michigan and enhance our community outreach mission. Please stay tuned!

LACS Advisory Committee



FRIEDA EKOTTO
Professor of Afroamerican
and African Studies

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) and Brazil Initiative (BI) advisory committees comprise a diverse group of faculty members who provide guidance and support for our programs.

They play a crucial role in shaping the strategic direction of the center and the initiative, ensuring that both keep in step with academic trends and community needs.

Brazil Initiative Advisory Committee



SARA AWARTANI
LSA Collegiate Fellow



SUEANN CAULFIELD
Professor of History



VICTORIA LANGLAND
Professor of History



LUCIANA CHAMORRO
Assistant Professor of
Anthropology



NILO COURET
Associate Professor of
Spanish



ASHLEY LUCAS
Professor of
American Culture and
Theatre and Drama



DANIEL NEMSER
Associate Professor of
Spanish



GIULIA RICCÒ
Assistant Professor of Romance
Languages and Literatures

\$441,289

in scholarships and grants awarded to graduate and undergraduate students this year

FLAS Fellowships for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

FLAS provides tuition and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The priority is to encourage the study of less commonly taught modern languages. The U.S. Department of Education funds these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act.

2024-2025 Recipients:

- Carlina Arango, Portuguese
- Victoria Brown, Portuguese
- Mariah Cardenas, K'iche Maya
- Sofia Golubic, Portuguese
- Ian Kennedy, Portuguese
- Samantha Lilly, Portuguese
- Anahi Lopez, Nahuatl
- Pendle Marshall-Hallmark, Portuguese
- Hannah Mesecar, Quechua
- Lucas Navia, Quechua
- Patrick Phang Del Pozo, Quechua
- Jennifer Sierra, Quechua
- Rafe Silver, Portuguese
- Sylvia Rodriguez, Portuguese
- Hannah Tweet, Nahuatl

Alfredo D. & Luz Maria P. Gutierrez Dissertation Award

Thanks to the ongoing philanthropic efforts of Alfredo and Luz Maria Gutierrez at the University of Michigan, this highly competitive award goes to one Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation related to Latin America and the Caribbean. With \$25,980 in financial support, the recipient is relieved of teaching responsibilities and can dedicate the full academic year to writing their dissertation.



ALFREDO D. & LUZ MARIA P. GUTIERREZ
DISSERTATION AWARDEE

Lucas Koutsoukos-Chalhoub
Doctoral Candidate in History

Project Title:
The Black Angel: Race, Fame, Law, and
Politics in Twentieth Century Brazil

Boyce Family Caribbean Studies Grant

The Boyce Family Caribbean Studies Grant, made possible by the generous donation of Drs. Paul and Simone Boyce, supports U-M undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, and professional school students who wish to conduct research or undertake internships in the region. Research projects can be conducted anywhere in the Caribbean, with a priority for those traveling to English-, French-, or Dutch-speaking countries.

2024-2025 Recipients



KIANA COOK
Music, Theater, & Dance

Project Title:
Congolese Rhythms
in Jamaica: Bridging
Cultures through Dance

Cook seeks to engage in cultural exchange and dialogue between international artists. Planned activities include Congolese drum and dance workshops, experiencing live Reggae music, and attending the Negril Craft Market.



BENJAMIN GAUGHRAN
Music, Theatre & Dance

Project Title:
Exploring the Choral
Music of Trinidad and
Tobago

Exploring 21st-century shifts from European musical aesthetic dominance to a global music, Gaughran’s project investigates the understudied realm of Trinidadian choral music through choir observations, conductor interviews, and musical tradition research.



ANDRÉ MASSÉ
**Romance Languages
and Literature**

Project Title:
Bilingual School
Teaching Assistant

Massé will be interning in Martinique as a teacher’s assistant at a bilingual kindergarten (French and English), aiding with educational instruction as well as ensuring the safety and supervision of children enrolled at the school.

LACS Tinker Field Research Grants

Made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tinker Foundation, the LACS Field Research Grants are designed to support master's, doctoral, and professional school students carrying out preliminary or pre-dissertation fieldwork in Latin American and Caribbean countries where Spanish and Portuguese are spoken. These grants provide students with the opportunity to establish professional and academic contacts, assess research sites, and refine their projects.

2024-2025 Recipients

- Arianna Afsari, Comparative Literature
- Felipe Coimbra Moretti, History
- Lola Gallo, Romance Languages and Literatures
- Nicolás Juárez, Social Work and Anthropology
- Keren Marin González, Anthropology
- Enrieth Martinez Palacios, History and Women and Gender Studies
- Fabricio Martins Silva, Urban and Regional Planning
- Theodore Matel, Earth and Environmental Science
- Andy Maticorena, Studio Art
- Denise Meier, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Sam Moon, Romance Languages and Literatures
- Leopoldo Solís Martínez, History
- Andressa Viol, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology



Martinez-Leary Stoffel Family Support Fund

(New Endowment)

Through a generous new gift from John T. and Elena M. Stoffel, the Martinez-Leary Stoffel Fund supports University of Michigan students studying and working in Latin American and Caribbean communities. Established in honor of Dr. Joan Leary Martinez, the fund aims to build new programming, support systems, and courses to integrate training in indispensable linguistic and cultural competencies and expand student-led, project-based learning. LACS looks forward to utilizing this new resource in the very near future.

Student Groups

Cuban and Cuban Diaspora Studies

LACS is home to the Cuban and Cuban Diaspora Studies Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop (RIW). The group is designed to encourage exchange and collaboration across a variety of fields as well as support advanced doctoral students in the development of research projects and dissertation writing. Just as the scholarship on Cuba and its diaspora spans a variety of disciplines and fields, the workshop also spans the University of Michigan with graduate students, staff and faculty from the departments of American Culture, Anthropology, History, Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, and Sociology, among others.

Círculo Andino

The Círculo “Micaela Bastidas Phuyuqhawa” is an organization of students and professors, mostly affiliated with the University of Michigan, who study or work in one of the Andean republics. The group meets regularly to present the results of new research about the histories, cultures, languages, and peoples of the Andes, focusing primarily on graduate student work. In conjunction with LACS and the Rackham Graduate School, Círculo Andino is a part of the Interdisciplinary Workshops program.

The Quito Project

The Quito Project provides summer tutoring programs in math, reading comprehension, English, and leadership to primary school students in Quito, Ecuador while also providing free healthcare and nutritional meals. TQP's education component is a student initiative from the University of Michigan and Universidad de San Francisco de Quito that works to minimize the achievement gap in low income zones by working with local communities and promoting global collaborations through education. As a multidisciplinary organization, The Quito Project has students and faculty from schools across the University of Michigan, including Medicine, Public Health, Education, and Literature, Sciences & Arts.



Indigenous Languages Program

LACS provides students with the opportunity to study Nahuatl and Quechua through our Indigenous Languages Program. Partnering with the Zacatecas Institute for Teaching and Research in Ethnology (IDIEZ), a Mexican nonprofit research institute, our instructor Carlos Cerecedo taught seven courses in Nahuatl for the center this year:

- LACS 461: Elementary Nahuatl I
- LACS 462: Elementary Nahuatl II
- LACS 463: Intermediate Nahuatl I
- LACS 464: Intermediate Nahuatl II
- LACS 465: Advanced Nahuatl I
- LACS 466: Advanced Nahuatl II
- LACS 655: Nahuatl Literature and Culture

LACS is also very fortunate to work with Adela Carlos Ríos, our local Quechua expert who taught six courses in Quechua for us this year:

- LACS 471: Elementary Quechua I
- LACS 472: Elementary Quechua II
- LACS 473: Intermediate Quechua I
- LACS 474: Intermediate Quechua II
- LACS 475: Advanced Quechua I
- LACS 476: Advanced Quechua II

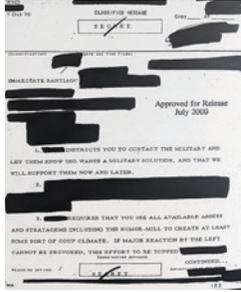
Course Offerings

This past year the center's students could choose from nearly 150 courses focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean. Some representative titles include:

- AAS 290: Global Blackness Experiences in Latin America: Brazil
- AAS 384: Caribbean Literature
- AMCULT 213: Introduction to Latina/o Studies
- ANTHRCUL 158: Native Andeans Today
- ANTHRARC 284: Aztec, Maya, Inca Civilizations
- ENVIRON 464: Intersection of Poverty and Environment in the US and Colombia
- HISTART 294: Latin American Modernism
- HISTART 394: Art and Power in the Colonial Spanish Americas
- HISTORY 363: The History of Modern Mexico, 1810-Present
- HISTORY 421: Religions of the African Diaspora
- POLSCI 347: Politics and Society in Latin America
- POLSCI 385: Indigenous Politics in Latin America
- PORTUG 301: Topics in Afro-Luso-Brazilian Cultures
- SPANISH 438: Slavery and Racial Capitalism in the Americas
- SPANISH 440: Literatures and Cultures of the Borderlands
- SPANISH 470: First Images of the Americas
- SPANISH 476: Latin American Poetry

The Other 9/11: Reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the 1973 Coup in Chile

In memory of the victims under Augusto Pinochet’s military dictatorship in Chile, LACS held a series of events, including a gallery exhibit titled “Secrets of State: The Declassified History of the Chilean Dictatorship.” The exhibit featured declassified documents regarding U.S. support for the coup. In addition, LACS hosted a film screening of *Chile '76* with Victoria Langland (History) and a keynote lecture by Peter Kornbluh, director of the Chile Declassification Project at the National Security Archive. The gallery exhibit was also displayed in San Juan, Puerto Rico, thanks to our partnership with the University of Puerto Rico.



Anticolonial Coalitions and Poetics in the Puerto Rican Diaspora

LACS sponsored talks in late September by Sara Awartani and Conor Tomás Reed on radical coalition building among the Puerto Rican diaspora. Awartani shared her book-in-development, *Solidarities of Liberation, Visions of Empire: Puerto Rico, Palestine, and American Global Power*, which discusses 1970s Chicago Puerto Rican and Palestinian coalition-building that reimagined the politics of anti-colonial liberation of the time. Reed presented their book, *New York Liberation School: Study and Movement for the People’s University*, which details how 1950s-1970s Black and Puerto Rican coalitions transformed education and social movements at the City University of New York in New York City.





Indigenous Resistance in Latin America: A Historical Perspective

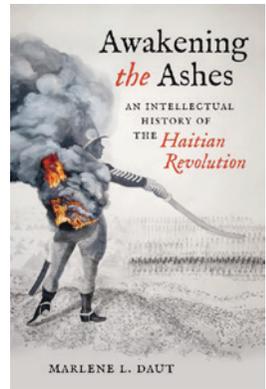
In October, LACS and U-M Professor of Political Science Edgar Franco-Vivanco organized a panel discussion on historical Indigenous mobilization in the region. Panelists Chris Carter (University of Virginia), Karla Mundum (John Jay College, CUNY), and Cesar Martinez-Alvarez (UCSB), along with Franco-Vivanco, delved into this rich historical context and examined the intricate dynamics that have shaped Indigenous political engagement throughout the region over the past several centuries.



Union of Feminists Against the System (UNFAS) Transborder Convening Performance, Reading, and Info Session

Led by Stamps School of Art & Design Assistant Professor Emilia Yang, Guatemalan Curator Maya Juracán, and Central American feminist artists, LACS co-sponsored a performance, reading, and info session about how people can get involved with UNFAS. This event was part of Professor Yang's Transnational Feminist Portals multi-year project and the Arts & Resistance Theme Semester.

Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution Workshop and Book Presentation



In collaboration with the Donia Human Rights Center, LACS brought Marlene L. Daut (Yale University) to campus to discuss her book, *Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution* (University of North Carolina Press, 2023). Daut's book situates famous and lesser-known eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Haitian revolutionaries, pamphleteers, and political thinkers within the global history of ideas, showing how their systems of knowledge and interpretation took center stage in the Age of Revolutions.

LACS Teacher Advisory Committee



Teacher Advisory Committee Members led several sessions during the program in San Juan, Puerto Rico with fellow teacher participants on implementing global case studies into the classroom.

In August 2023, LACS started a new initiative to better integrate teachers' voices into the planning and organization of our K-12 outreach activities. Four amazing educators from Michigan and Puerto Rico have worked tirelessly to connect the wider community to LACS programming and resources and better align our work with the interests and needs of teachers. Our inaugural 2023-2024 members are Wanda Toro-Zambrana (ELL & special needs specialist, Scarlett Middle School, Michigan), Amy Perkins (U.S. and world history teacher, Lakeshore High School, Michigan), Kristi Shaffer (Spanish teacher, Huron High School, Michigan) and Wilmarie Pérez Rivera (history and geography teacher, Escuela Especializada en Matemáticas, Ciencias y Tecnología de San Juan).

Midwest Institute for International and Intercultural Education (MIIE) Partnership



Amelia Burke, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology & history at U-M, presents at the Midwest Institute/Intercultural Education (MIIE) workshop on climate change in August 2023.

Over the past four years, LACS and MIIE have supported global curricular initiatives at Sinclair Community College (SCC) in Dayton, Ohio. An interdisciplinary team of four faculty members from international education, geography and management have worked on developing and expanding a certificate program with a series of online courses focused on emerging markets and comparative case studies from BRIC countries. As a result of their coursework several students have created their own International Club at SCC to promote the certificate and provide mentoring to participants.



▲
 Top L to R: 2023 GMEI teachers and workshop facilitators from California and Michigan gather at Friendship Park in Tijuana, Mexico.

Image of the US-Mexico border wall. Artists use art to challenge family separation and remember loved ones.

Bottom L to R: Diann Rowland, a 4th generation Korean-Yucatec Maya-Mexican descendant, shared about the historical context of her unique heritage and family story.

GMEI participants visited the MAAC Community Charter School in Chula Vista, CA. MCCS is a free public charter high school serving students who select an alternative small-school environment and/or students who are at-risk socially and academically.

Global Migration Education Initiative (GMEI)

In August, LACS, along with partners at the International Institute and San Diego State University, held a three day workshop at the US/Mexico border. The workshop titled “(Re)Humanizing the Politics of Migration,” brought together educators from Michigan and California to reflect on the challenges migrant individuals and families face across the world.

The workshop included panel discussions from migration and bilingual education experts, site visits to community organizations working with immigrants and refugees on both sides of the border, and pedagogical sessions with support from the Marsal Family School of Education at the University of Michigan.



Annual Curriculum Development Program in Puerto Rico

As part of an ongoing collaboration between the International Institute and the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, LACS organized a three-day K-12 teacher workshop titled, “Education as Freedom: Activism, Community, and Democracy in the Classroom.” The program had three major components: a virtual orientation session, an in-person three-day workshop, and virtual follow-ups with participants. Seven curricular design groups, composed of three to five teachers, developed lesson material related to both global area studies and the major theme of the program. During our in-person days in Puerto Rico, participants also visited a number of community sites including Casa Pueblo, Centro de Apoyo Mutuo, and Nuestra Escuela to learn directly from activists, educators, and local leaders about integrating community organizing into the classroom. The pedagogical workshop sessions were facilitated by teachers from LACS’ Teacher Advisory Committee. Thanks to a new strategic partnership with the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, this year’s program had not only the largest number of teacher participants (almost six times the number of participants in 2023) but also was one of the most diverse, with participants from locations throughout the island.



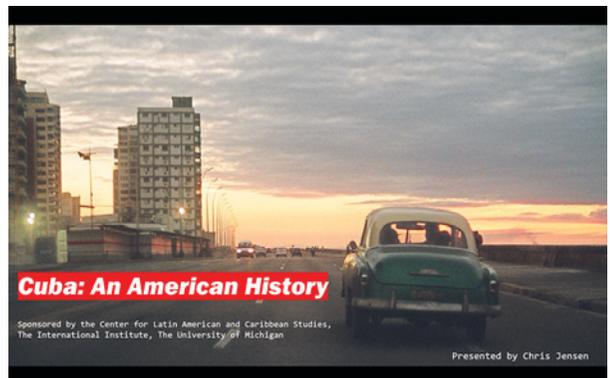
Photos from the 2024 UM-UPR Annual Curriculum Development Workshop. Teachers visited a variety of sites, like Casa Pueblo—a community-led initiative for environmental protection and sustainability—in addition to attending presentations and pedagogical workshops.



Educator Workshops

In September, LACS Outreach Coordinator Chris Jensen facilitated a workshop with over 20 participants of K-12 teachers from Michigan and surrounding states. In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the 1973 military coup in Chile and the 40th anniversary of the return to democracy in Argentina, the workshop, “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Memory in the Classroom: Chile and Argentina,” focused on how educators can utilize recent artistic work to discuss these difficult topics in their classrooms.

In addition, Jensen facilitated a workshop in January with 31 teachers from across the country as part of the International Institute’s World History and Learning Community program. Using Ada Ferrer’s Pulitzer Prize book, *Cuba: An American History*, participants discussed ways to reassess the island’s historical legacy in the region and the United State’s intervention during Cuba’s pursuit of independence from Spain.



LACS Outreach Coordinator, Chris Jensen, facilitated two virtual educator workshops on Cuba, Chile, and Argentina with over 50 participants combined.



LSA

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

LACS is a member of the International Institute

Weiser Hall, Suite 500, 500 Church Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1042

lacs.office@umich.edu

ii.umich.edu/lacs

LACS DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Gavin Arnall, Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures

Nestor Barrera, Academic Program Manager, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Christopher Jensen, Outreach Coordinator, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Gloria Caudill, Manager, Global South Cluster

Kathy Covert, Office Coordinator, Global South Cluster

Raquel Buckley, Communications Editor, International Institute



Stay connected with our weekly LACS Bulletin. Scan the code or visit myumi.ch/mZZVE.

CREDITS:

Cover image: Serranía de Hornocal, Jujuy, Argentina by [sentidos humanos](#) on Unsplash

Page 2 image: Pisac, Peru by [Justen de Vasconcellos](#) on Unsplash

Pages 12-15 images are by [Christopher Jensen](#) (chrisje@umich.edu)

Design by [Raquel Buckley](#) (raquelrb@umich.edu)

© 2024 by Regents of the University of Michigan

Jordan B. Acker, Michael J. Behm, Mark J. Bernstein, Paul W. Brown, Sarah Hubbard, Denise Ilitch, Ron Weiser, Katherine E. White, Santa J. Ono (ex officio)

A Non-discriminatory, Affirmative Action Employer.



Supporting LACS and BI

LACS contributes to the University of Michigan community beyond degree programs. We support students, scholars, and faculty, and lobby for faculty hiring and courses focused on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Your gift to LACS/BI will ensure that U-M students can always study the region's cultures, histories, languages, and peoples.

If you have any questions, wish to discuss another giving option, or would like to talk about the future of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Brazil Initiative at LACS, please call 734.763.0553 or send us an email at lacs.office@umich.edu.

We enthusiastically acknowledge the generous support that we have received from LACS alumni and friends. Through your donations, we maintain a center of excellence and continue funding students' exploration of this complex and dynamic region of the world.