



College of Arts & Sciences
**LATIN AMERICAN,
CARIBBEAN & LATINO
STUDIES**

Nexos

LACLS newsletter
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Welcome back to the LACLS newsletter. Spring has been busy and nothing shows this more clearly than the fact that this issue of the newsletter extends to **three pages**! Fall 2019 looks good too: On October 4th we will host the fifth annual LACLS symposium, entitled “**Racial Politics in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinx Communities,**” organized by Joseph Clark (History), Carmen Martinez Novo (Anthropology), and Karrieann Soto Vega (WRD). Do you have ideas for other events? Need help publicizing an event? Contact scotthutson@uky.edu.



The **Braceros Photo Exhibit** at the University of Kentucky's William T Young Library depicts the experience of Mexican laborers' travel to the United States. The Bracero Program (1942-1964) recruited Mexican workers to relieve a labor shortage caused by World War II. The 18 photos on exhibit from February 1 to May 1 were taken by the Hermanos Mayo, who had fled to Mexico during Spain's Civil War. The exhibit is supplemented by an [online guide](#) that provides detailed descriptions of images. The exhibit was mounted by Megan Parker (Anthropology, UK) and Adrian Ho (Young Library) and received funds from A&S' [Year of Migration](#) Program and UK Libraries. The exhibit is curated by John Mraz under the auspices of three institutions in Mexico: the Archivo General de la Nación, the Museo Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Mexicanos, and the Centro Nacional para la Preservación del Patrimonio Cultural Ferrocarrilero (CNPPCF).

On February 12th, **Dr. Deborah Cohen** (Department of History, University of Missouri St. Louis) inaugurated the Braceros exhibit with a lecture titled “Braceros: Migrant Citizens and Transnational Subjects in the Postwar United States and Mexico,”



MARCH 8-9, 2019

Midwest Conference on Mesoamerican Archaeology and Ethnohistory

On March 8th and 9th, LACLS hosted the **Midwest Conference on Mesoamerican Archaeology and Ethnohistory**. The event was organized by Scott Hutson and Chris Pool and received additional support from the Department of Anthropology and the Office of the Vice President for Research. The conference consisted of a keynote lecture by Stephen Houston (see below) and 18 papers presented by researchers from the following institutions: Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana University East, Kenyon College, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, Ohio State, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, and Vanderbilt.

2nd Annual LACLS Distinguished lecture. On March 8th, **Dr. Stephen Houston** (Dupee Family Professor of Social Sciences, Brown University) delivered a lecture titled "Rescaling Reality: Size and Sumptuary Privilege among the Classic Maya." Dr. Houston's lecture explored instances of relative differences in the size of humans in ancient Maya art and how this intersects with social power.



On April 18th, **Dr. Joseph Clark** (Department of History) discussed chapter 3 of his book manuscript preliminarily titled *Veracruz and the Caribbean*. The chapter ("Environment, Health, and Race in the Melancholic City, 1599-1697") makes several points, beginning with the fact that the city of Veracruz was moved to its current location because it was favorable for commerce. Yet, lacking arable land and potable water, the location was unpopular with those who lived there. Clark explores racialization processes in which writers linked Veracruz's black and African population to its heat, humidity, and disease climate. More broadly, "Veracruz's distinctive relationship to the Caribbean allowed its African and Afro-descended residents to define diasporic identities that were in dialogue with diasporans in Havana, Cartagena, Santo Domingo, and elsewhere."

On April 2nd, Karrieann Soto Vega brought speakers Lisa Ortiz, Jasmin Hernández, and Jennifer Hinojosa to UK for a panel titled "Forced Migration and the Limits of Citizenship: Puerto Ricans Crossing Diasporas",



LACLS co-sponsored events

On February 27th, Mónica Díaz organized a panel titled "Revisiting the conquest of Mexico in its 500th anniversary" with visiting speakers Amber Brian, Robert Schwaller and Tatiana Seijas.



On February 28th, **Dr David Nemer** (School of Information Science, UK) gave a talk titled "Geographies of Hate: Uncovering Spaces of Exclusion, Racism, and Extremism in Brazil." How did Brazil go from a progressive female president to a far-right male president? Nemer targeted this question with research on political rallies in public spaces and social media-usage within urban slums. Based on ten months of ethnography in the favelas of Vitoria and a five-month qualitative study of Whatsapp groups, Nemer uncovered digital tactics that helped far-right presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro win the 2018 election.



Congratulations to the 2019 LACLS Summer Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipients

Victoria Beall (Sociology): Beall will travel to Argentina to collect data on legislative speeches as part of her project titled "Representation on the Right: Unpacking Conservative Women's Political Representation".

Aberto Ortiz Brito (Anthropology): Ortiz Brito will travel to Veracruz, Mexico to conduct pXRF analysis on sculpture and stone sources for his project: "Reutilization of Olmec Monuments during the Classic Period in Gulf Coast of México."

Lindsey Funke (Geography): For her project "Weaponizing Industry", Funke will travel to Oaxaca, Mexico, to conduct MA research on the ways that mis-leading information about extractive industries is created, disseminated, and used.

Helen Kras (Political Science): Kras will travel to Salvador, Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre (Brazil) for: "The Political Consequences of Violence Against Women: How Victims and Non-Victims Form their Opinions about the Government."

Megan Parker (Anthropology): Parker will travel to central Mexico for her project, which is titled "Investigations of Indigenous Household Economies before and after the Spanish Conquest in the Northern Basin of Mexico."



Work done by a professor and a graduate student will be highlighted as part of a new LACLS website feature that will change every semester. Linguistics professor Rusty Barrett (left) delivered the 3rd annual MLK colloquium, highlighting the crises faced by central American migrants at the US border. Hispanic Studies grad Jacob Neely (right) prepared the Los Codices exhibit: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/los_codices/

