



College of Arts & Sciences

LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN & LATINO STUDIES

Nexos

LACLS newsletter
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Welcome back to *Nexos*, the newsletter for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies at UK. Most of the events planned for Spring 2020 were canceled due to the novel virus, but the distinguished lecture was a great success (see below). The outgoing LACLS director (Scott Hutson) would like to thank the LACLS community for its many contributions over the last three years and looks forward to welcoming a new director. Saludos! Saudações!



Kendra McSweeney (Department of Geography, Ohio State University) delivered the third annual LACLS distinguished lecture on February 12th, entitled "The Drug War Database that Speaks against Itself: Cocaine Trafficking in the Western Hemisphere 'Transit Zone.'" McSweeney used the Consolidated Counter Drug Database (CCDB) to show the relatively high flow of cocaine across the transit zone, which extends from South American cocaine supply centers to the United States. The database foregrounds glaring failures in the war on drugs. A premise of the war on drugs is that if military and police seize cocaine, its price to consumers will increase, which will deter drug use. Yet, despite all the money spent to deter drug trafficking, the price of cocaine has actually dropped. Meanwhile, traffickers invest profits in ways that destabilize community resources, indigenous homelands, and protected areas in several countries within the transit zone.



Congratulations to the 2018 LACLS Summer Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipients!

- Paula Melissa Alves** (English), "Conceição Evaristo and bell hooks: African Diasporic Literature"
- Shayna Lindquist** (Anthropology), "Economic Autonomy in the Domestic Economy: Reframing Classic Period Economy in Southern Veracruz, Mexico"
- Jessica Linz** (Geography), "Affective Registers of Displacement and Gentrification in Post-Earthquake Mexico City"
- Lilia Malavé Gómez** (Hispanic Studies), "Compassion versus Confrontation, Discursive Representation of Three Ethnicities in Narcoserries: Americans, Latin-Americans, and Latinos. Study case: the Opioids Crisis and the War on Drugs"
- Gabriela Montero Mejía** (Anthropology), "Culture contact and quality of life: Revisiting conquest in the southern Gulf Coast of Veracruz, Mexico"
- Araby Smyth** (Geography), "Indigenous digital spaces in Oaxaca"