



Welcome back to *Nexos*, the newsletter for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies at UK. Coming this spring: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LACLS distinguished lecture, by Kendra McSweeney, Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm. Also, panel discussion on language and identity featuring Maria Scharrón del Río, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00. For more info., contact Scott Hutson: [scotthutson@uky.edu](mailto:scotthutson@uky.edu).



On Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, LACLS celebrated its fifth annual symposium, organized by **Joe Clark** (History), **Karrieann Soto Vega** (WRD), and **Carmen Martinez Novo** (Anthropology)

## Racial Politics in Latin America, The Caribbean, and Latinx Communities



**Lorand Matory** (Duke) delivered the keynote lecture: “BDSM as an Afro-Atlantic Religion: or, Free to Be a Slave.” After seeing a fetish shop in Columbus Ohio with a dungeon in the basement, Dr. Matory realized the research that produced his 2018 book (*The Fetish Revisited: Marx, Freud, and the Gods Black People Make*) could be taken in a direction that incorporated Bondage/Discipline and Sado-Masochism (BDSM). Dr. Matory’s talk combined his ethnographic work on Candomblé, an Afro-Brazilian religious tradition, with political analysis of why élites in the United States support President Trump. Using whips as props, Matory linked masochistic experience among Candomblé initiates to broader tendencies regarding un-coerced submissiveness toward authoritarianism.

**Ana Liberato** (Sociology, University of Kentucky) discussed the challenges and advances that have been made in recent scholarship on racism in the Dominican Republic. An important theme that engages social theory and empirical research is the fraught relation between Dominicans and displaced Haitians.

**Zaire Dinzey-Flores** (Sociology/Latino and Caribbean Studies, Rutgers) spoke about how built space and its regulation in Latin America leads to both class-based and race-based exclusions and inequalities. Looking at gated communities in Puerto Rico, Dinzey-Flores’ work invited consideration of New Urbanist projects in the Americas.

**Margarita Huayhua** (Anthropology, UMass Dartmouth) examined racism toward indigenous Peruvians as it occurs in everyday life. She used close analysis of conversations between doctors and patients, bus drivers and passengers to identify both subtle and blatant aggressions. Huayhua’s presentation in fact challenged the use of labels such as “indigenous” and revealed the complexity of Andean identity politics.



Margarita Huayhua, Zaire Dinzey-Flores, and Ana Liberato

## LACLS 2019 graduate student travel grant recipients, presenting at LACLS symposium



Left to right: Robert Bell, Victoria Beall, Helen Kras, Alberto Ortiz Brito. Not pictured: Lindsey Funke and Megan Parker

--**Victoria Beall** (Political Science) "Representation on the Right: Unpacking Conservative Women's Political Representation"

--**Robert Bell** (Linguistics), "Perception of Afro-Costa Rican Speech"

--**Helen Rabello Kras** (Political Science), "The Political Consequences of Violence Against Women: How Victims and Non-Victims Form their Opinions about the Government"

--**Alberto Ortiz Brito** (Anthropology), "Reutilization of Olmec Monuments during the Classic Period in Gulf Coast of México"

--**Megan Parker** (Anthropology), "Investigations of Indigenous Household Economies before and after the Spanish Conquest in the Northern Basin of Mexico"

--**Lindsey Funke** (Geography), "Weaponizing Transparency in Oaxaca"



Announcement: The deadline for applications for the **2020 LACLS Graduate Student Travel Grant** is February 12, 2020. Applications can be found on the LACLS website: <https://lacs.as.uky.edu/lacs-grants>

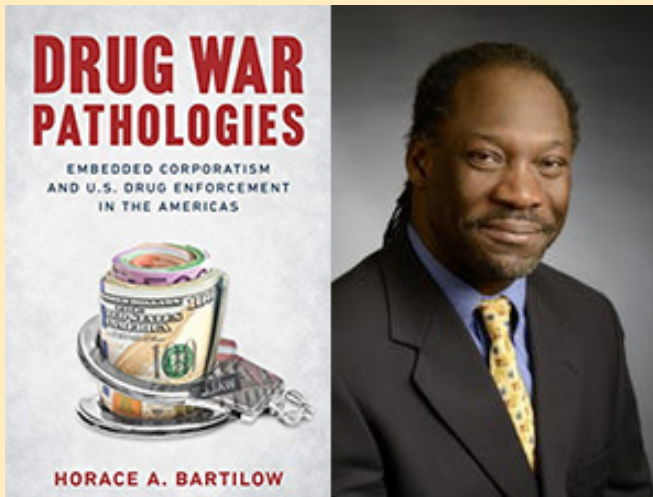


On December 2<sup>nd</sup> **Arcelia Gutiérrez** (Hispanic Studies) discussed a draft of her paper "Competing Marginalized Counterpublics: #OscarsSoWhite, Black Twitter, and Latinx Twitter" at the fifth LACLS research workshop. In this paper, Gutiérrez notes that some Latinx activists believe that the #OscarsSoWhite movement focuses too much on the Black experience, therefore marginalizing other ethno-racial minorities. In response, several prominent black voices have used the hashtag #Notyourmule "as an indictment of Non-Black people of color who don't act in solidarity with the Black community, but instead wish to reap the rewards of Black activism." In exploring these clashes between marginalized counter-publics, Gutiérrez finds that critics of Latinx Twitter's frustration with #OscarsSoWhite have argued that this frustration is hypocritical because Latinx activism for increasing Latinx inclusion in popular media has actually marginalized Afro-Latinxs.



Arcelia Gutiérrez (Hispanic Studies, UK)

**New book** presentation from LACLS faculty member Horace Bartilow, September 19th



**Horace Bartilow** (Political Science, UK) presented the core arguments of his new book: “Drug War Pathologies: Embedded Corporatism and US Drug Enforcement in the Americas.” After showing that the War on Drugs has persistently failed to reduce cross-border drug trafficking or the power of cartels, Bartilow explored the impressive variety of corporations, political groups, and other organizations (and individuals) that have vested interests in (and profit from) the continuation of the War on Drugs. Bartilow’s book combines cutting edge statistical analyses and qualitative critique.



## LACLS co-sponsored events

As part of the Year of Equity event entitled “Race, Identity and Equity Throughout the Americas”, **Melissa Johnson** (Anthropology, Southwestern University) gave a talk titled “Becoming Creole: Race and Nature in Belize” (Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>). Johnson explored how cuisine and semi-discursive attitudes toward, among other things, lawns versus brush, produce and reproduce creole identity in Belize and in diaspora. Dr. Johnson also led a discussion of her book in LAS 201.



In a talk hosted by Anthropology, **Erica Williams** (Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College) shared results of ethnographic work among black feminists in Salvador (Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>), Bahia, Brazil. Williams explored how activists confront Brazil’s newly elected racist and misogynist president, Jair Bolsonaro. One strategy is aquilombarse, which means regrouping for strength and refers to the powerful historical settlements of escaped slaves.



### Upcoming 2020 LACLS Events:

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**, 4:30: Kendra McSweeney (Geography, Ohio State) LACLS distinguished lecture

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** 4:00: “Naming and the Politics of Inclusivity in Latinidad” Panel. Featuring, Maria Scharrón del Río, Rusty Barrett, Daniela Gamez and more, Moderated by Arcelia Gutiérrez

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**, Norman Hammond (Archaeology, Boston University), lecture on Belizean archaeology

**TBA:** Fátima Espinosa Vasquez faculty workshop

