

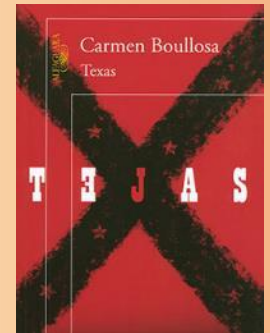
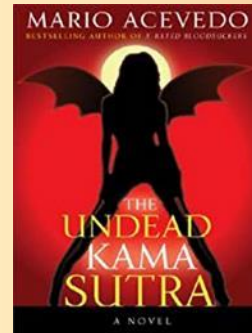


Welcome back to the newsletter for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latin@ Studies at the University of Kentucky. Spring has been busy and this newsletter will catch you up on the action. Fall 2018 looks good too: On October 5<sup>th</sup> we will host the fourth annual LACLS symposium, entitled **“Populist Authoritarianism in Comparative and Historical Perspective,”** organized by Carlos de la Torre (Sociology) and Dierdra Reber (Hispanic Studies). Do you have ideas for other events? Need help publicizing an event? Contact [scotthutson@uky.edu](mailto:scotthutson@uky.edu).



**LACLS Distinguished lecture.** On April 26<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Debra Castillo**, the former president of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) and currently Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow and Emerson Hinchliff Chair of Hispanic Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University, spoke about “New Frontiers in Mexican American Literature.” While dominant pop culture in the US represents Latin@ culture poorly, there has been an explosion of literature by Mexican Americans, covering a broad range of topics: Salem witches, vampire

detectives, human rights, and the experience of life in New York City. The Hispanic Studies Department co-sponsored the distinguished lecture.



On April 20<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Abby Córdova** and graduate student **Helen Kras** (Department of Political Science) discussed their paper “Addressing Violence against Women: The Effect of Women’s Police Stations on Police Legitimacy” at the second LACLS research workshop. The paper explores the effects of the establishment of women’s police stations (WPS) in Brazil on perceptions of police legitimacy. Brazil inaugurated the world’s first WPS in 1985 and now has over 300 municipal-level stations dedicated to combating crimes against women, including rape, defamation, domestic violence, and homicide. Córdova and Kras use survey data to show that women view police more positively in municipalities that have WPSs, even though women who use WPSs in Brazil often do not have positive experiences.

Abby Córdova (left) and Helen Kras (right)

The International Studies program hosted **Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velázquez** on March 30th and LACLS was delighted to serve as a co-sponsor. Overmyer-Velázquez is a historian by training who has more recently branched out into scholarship and activism centered on migration in many parts of the world. In his visit to UK, Overmyer-Velázquez, the president of the University of Connecticut at Hartford, gave a presentation titled "Living the DREAM, Contesting Citizenship, and Building Democracy: Undocumented Migrant Youth in Action." Overmyer-Velázquez addressed misconceptions that frame the discourse on the Dream Act and explored the forms of agency taken by documented and undocumented migrants in response to recent federal political (in)action.



On January 30th, **Dr. Carlos Gardeazabal Bravo** gave a talk titled "Human Rights and the Cultural Politics of Empathy in the Colombian (Post) Conflict." Gardeazabal Bravo, who took his PhD this spring from the University of Connecticut, discussed the role of literature in the politics of affect, focusing specifically on a pair of Colombian novels: Juan Gabriel Vázquez's *El Ruido de las Cosas al Caer* and Evelio Rosero's *Los Ejércitos*. Gardeazabal Bravo explored, to use his own words, "how both novels represent the hard work that involves establishing ethically meaningful bonds with the victims of the Colombian conflict."



## 2018 LACLS Summer Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the six students that received LACLS summer travel grants!

**Kevin Alejandrez** (Sociology): Alejandrez will conduct research in Oregon. The title of his project is: "Differences among Latinos in Oregon Agriculture—Positioning in the Fields."

**Shayna Lindquist** (Anthropology): Lindquist will conduct research in Veracruz. The title of her project is: "Mesoamerican Strategies of Economic Positioning: A Perspective from the Classic Period Southern Gulf coast of Mexico."

**Jessica Linz** (Geography): Linz will conduct research in Mexico City. The title of her project is: "Disturbing the Beast: The Affective Life of Gentrification after the Mexico City Earthquake."

**Gabriela Montero Mejía** (Anthropology): Montero will conduct research in Veracruz. The title of her project is: "Mapping Time and Space: Contextualizing the Archaeological Site of Mazapa, Veracruz, Mexico."

**Gregory Saxton** (Political Science): Saxton will conduct research in Buenos Aires. The title of his project is: "Inequality, Fairness, Perceptions and Political Support in the Americas."

**Kaitlin Zapel** (Anthropology): Zapel will conduct research in Ecuador. The title of her project is: "Otavalan Women Weavers: Rethinking Gendered Labor and Crafts."