

LAIS Fall 2019 Newsletter

LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN STUDIES

From the Director:

The 2018-2019 academic year was auspicious for LAIS. Our goals at LAIS are to revitalize and strengthen our graduate and undergraduate programs, increase our national and international visibility, and build a stronger sense of community on campus. To accomplish these goals, we launched several new initiatives. For example, the *tertulias*: Open-format forums that bring LAIS faculty, students and staff together around topics of relevance in Latin America. To date we have held three tertulias -- two were roundtables on the current political situations in Venezuela and Brazil (the latter in collaboration with the Department of Global Studies). The third was a presentation by anthropologist Anabel Ford, director of the UCSB Mesoamerican Research Center. All three were well attended and sparked lively discussions.



We also organized two book presentations to recognize the work of junior faculty affiliated with LAIS. Books by Javiera Barandiarán (Global Studies), and Juan and Natalie Cobo (History) were discussed by scholars coming from as far as France. Co-sponsors included the Blum Center, History Department, Global Studies, the Global Environmental Justice Project, the Department of Classics, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and the office of the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts. The Cobos presentation was conducted entirely in Spanish as part of the LAIS initiative to increase linguistic diversity in our academic culture.

Our major event for 2018-2019 was our inaugural **Undergraduate Student Conference, “Displacements: Peoples, Politics, and Rights.” (April 2019).**

This conference brought together students from across California to discuss their research. The keynote speaker, **Dr. Terry Lynn Karl**, a world-renowned professor emerita of Political Science and Latin American Studies at Stanford, presented the talk “Massacres, Migration, and the Promise of Change” before a packed and engaged audience. See this article in the UCSB Current to learn more: <https://www.news.ucsb.edu/2019/019415/displacements>. **At the ending ceremony Fatima Andrade received the “Undergraduate Award for Exemplary Academic Performance” and Denny Alvarez the Best Master’s Thesis Award.** Congratulations, Fatima and Denny!

Our final event of the year was our picnic at Goleta Beach Park, where we survived imminent rain... This was also the moment to announce **the winner of the best faculty mentor prize, which went to Juan Cobo**, in recognition of “his exemplary mentorship of graduate and undergraduate students.” This prize, established by former LAIS director Gabriela Soto Laveaga (now at Harvard), is voted for entirely by students. Congratulations Juan!

Less visible to the outer world were our successful negotiations with the UCSB administration to increase the economic support for LAIS students. As a result, we can now make more competitive offers to prospective students. We also reestablished the eligibility of LAIS prospective graduate students for central fellowships (fellowships that entail campus-wide competition). These efforts have borne fruit: We are welcoming four new graduate students to our Master’s program this Fall. One of them, **Rosa Rodríguez won the prestigious Cota-Robles Fellowship, which will give her two fully funded years of study.** Congratulations, Rosa!

Other new developments have to do with the curriculum. This year, for the first time --and as a response to the growing demand for our courses-- we are offering two iterations of our core introductory course, LAIS 10, which means more TAship opportunities for our graduate students. Likewise, and in keeping with our goal of increasing linguistic diversity in our academic culture, LAIS will offer Spanish versions of several of our courses, including courses cross listed with other departments. But this depends on finding volunteers to teach them! **LAIS invites ladder rank faculty to teach LAIS courses, either in English or Spanish for the 2020-2021 academic year.** Teaching LAIS courses is not an extra burden, they count towards your departmental teaching load, and here is no better way to engage with students and support the program! **If you would like to teach a LAIS course, please email me before November 1st, 2019.**

Shifting to our plans for 2019-2020, I am pleased to welcome Lisa McAllister (PhD in Anthropology, UCSB) as the new academic coordinator for LAIS, and the Center for Middle East Studies and the East Asia Center. This position was made possible thanks to the Dean of Social Sciences, Charles Hale, and the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, John Majewski. Lisa will coordinate LAIS events and outreach, including a new K-16 outreach program.

Don't forget to join **the LAIS Welcome Lunch on Tuesday, September 24th, at 1PM to 2:30PM in the UCen State Street Room**. At lunch you will get to meet our new students and staff and reconnect with LAIS. Everybody is welcome!

I cannot end this letter without thanking my colleagues of the advisory board for their work on the aforementioned initiatives. In particular, LAIS Vice-Director, and Director of Graduate Studies, Juan Cobo, and Juan Pablo Lupi (to be the DGS in Winter and Spring 2020). Thank you also to the LAIS student assistants Gabriel Van Praag and Sarah Zamir, and all our dedicated staff at Phelps, Carol Flores, Elena Baez, Teresa Salinas, Mayra Asencios, and Iryna Zdanovich, without whom our achievements would not have been possible.

Lastly, Fall quarter may be a little quiet in LAIS, as I will be at UC Irvine's Humanities Research Institute working on a project about civil wars. During this period, I will be slow to respond to email. In my absence, there is no acting director, but LAIS will remain in the good hands of the faculty advisory board: Alicia Boswell, Inés Casillas, Evelyne Laurent-Perrault, Juan Pablo Lupi (only Winter and Fall), and Jennifer Tyburczy, and Cristina Venegas. My deepest thanks to all of them!

Sincerely and with excitement for the new academic year,

Cecilia Méndez

Director of the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program

Upcoming Events!



JOIN US FOR
OUR FALL 2019

WELCOME LUNCH

The **Latin American and Iberian Studies Program** invites faculty, students and staff to join us to meet our new members and connect with LAIS.

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER
24th
1PM-2:30PM

STATE STREET ROOM
UNIVERSITY CENTER (UCEN)

LUNCH
AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED
Join us for all or part of the lunch as your time allows.

LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN STUDIES

LAIS Welcome Back Lunch
1:00PM - 2:30PM September 24th, 2019
State Street Room at the UCEN

Please join us for a lunch reception to welcome our new graduate students to UCSB and the LAIS family.

Welcome new Graduate Students!

Please give a warm welcome to our new graduate students, and join us September 24th at the LAIS Welcome Lunch to meet them.

Jennifer Amador
Carol Marchante
Katia Rodriguez
Rosa Rodriguez

Welcome new Faculty!

The LAIS community is very pleased to welcome 3 new Latin Americanist faculty members Alicia Boswell (History of Art and Architecture), André Corrêa de Sa (Spanish and Portuguese) and Kai Thaler (Global Studies).



Alicia Boswell

History of Art & Architecture Assistant Professor

When and how did your interest for your research field develop? Has your interest for archaeology been something that you've been passionate about since you were young?

History was my first passion and in high school I planned to study history in college. While I was aware of archaeology - who hasn't seen a movie about adventuring archaeologists like Indiana Jones? - it was in college that I learned that archaeology was another approach to study the past. Archaeology prioritizes studying material culture - physical remnants of the past such as historic or ancient buildings, houses - and even trash (yes, trash) - to understand the past. I find this fascinating - if someone only saw your room's trashcan, what would they learn about you? In college after taking several archaeology classes I went on my first archaeological excavation as part of a study abroad program in Peru. I spent the month excavating a 1500 year old storage room. It may not sound that exciting to most people but I loved it, discovering what had been left in that storage room when the community was abandoned. Working outside and learning how to excavate and record our findings was fascinating! I also fell in love with Peru, its culture, and rich history.

André Corrêa de Sá

Spanish and Portuguese Assistant Professor

When and how did your interest for your research field develop?

Broadly speaking, the sort of research I've been doing has always been about working out ways in which books that are important to me can also become relevant and useful to my students. Shortly after coming to UCSB and get to know the Environmental Humanities Initiative, while looking for new far-reaching approaches to my readings, it became a very natural fit to engage my work in ecological issues and attempt to analyze Lusophone literatures and cultures from an environmental perspective.

**Has your interest in environmental criticism been something that you've been passionate about for many years?**

Well, I've always been passionate about books and forests and learned from my dad to embrace both books and trees with tender gestures and identify them with the *oikos*... So I suppose it was just a matter of time before I came to notice that this intimate ecology should frame the kind of cultural analysis I do.

**Kai Thaler**

Global Studies Assistant Professor

When and how did your interest for your research field develop? Has your interest for archaeology been something that you've been passionate about since you were young?

I grew up around Portland, Maine, a refugee resettlement city, and that combined with a general interest in global affairs to spark my interest in the politics and sociology of conflict, violence, and regimes and regime change.

Much of my early research was in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on Angola, Mozambique, and South Africa. Having studied African rebellions and revolutionary regimes, I wanted to expand cross-regionally (and put my Spanish to use), and so began working in Colombia and Nicaragua in 2011 and 2012. Over the past several years, Nicaragua has absorbed more of my attention, and I am currently working on several projects related to both the revolutionary period and the country's contemporary crisis.

Welcome new Staff!

Tyler McMullen

LAIS Graduate Program Coordinator

Email: tylermcmullen@ucsb.edu

Lisa McAllister
 LAIS Events and Outreach Coordinator
 Email: lisamcallister@ucsb.edu

Graduate Student Highlight

Sarah Zamir

LAIS Graduate Student

What motivated you to study Latin America?

I've always been interested in colonial history. I come from a family with an intense passion for history and politics. But the catalyst to my graduate career began while working as a research assistant to Professor Juan Cobo, and learning how to read Spanish Paleography. Acquiring this skill brought me to appreciate and question what I had learned during grade school, due to the nature of some of the documents I had encountered, and motivated me to bring my curiosity into my graduate career.

[Read More](#)



Alumni News

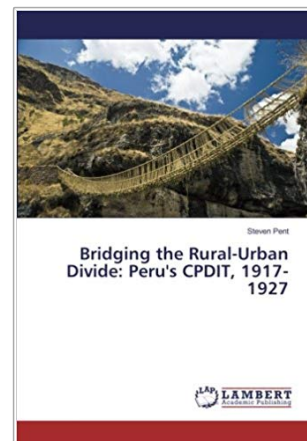
Steve Pent

LAIS MA Alumni '07

Author of *Bridging the Rural-Urban Divide: Peru's CPDIT 1917-1927*

What is the main contribution/argument of your book?

One of the main contributions of my book will have been to draw attention to the significant role rural communities played in Peruvian history, for the period of 1917-1927. I feel compelled to challenge a historiography that has tended to highlight urban protagonists on the national stage, relegating rural players to the role of victims or supporting actors. I argue in my book that these are projections by certain entities to stifle legitimate displays of citizenship on the part of rural actors, who traditionally had not even been considered citizens, but rather relics from the past. I argue that much of the conflict generated in the southern Peruvian Andes during this period pitted urban centers and rural communities in their demands before the Leguia administration, which had opened up the political spectrum for all. My focus has been on the Comité Pro-Derecho Indígena Tawantinsuyo (CPDIT), a national organization of rural communities



under whose auspices peasant delegations were able to air their complaints and demands regarding land seizures, corvee labor, ecclesiastical fees, abusive authorities, and political-commercial autonomy from urban centers. These efforts were fiercely resisted and later curtailed by a united urban opposition that sought to defend the status quo...

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Dr. Cheryl Jimenez Frei
LAIS MA Alumni '12

Accepted as Assistant Professor of Public History and Modern Latin America at the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire.

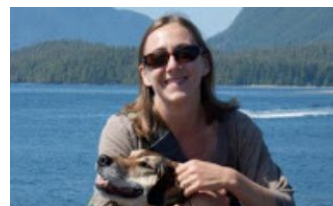
How did you decide to pursue a MA in LAIS?

When I began considering graduate school, I knew I was a non-traditional student: I had finished my bachelor's degree (in International Studies and Journalism) seven years before, and had since been working as a journalist, grant writer for nonprofits, and other odd jobs in between. I felt very much "out of the game" so to speak, and my academic interests had always been diverse. What I knew is that I wanted to study Latin America—as an undergrad I fell in love with all things Latin America—but I also knew I wanted to pursue that love within an interdisciplinary context. The LAIS program offered that flexibility, and made me feel very welcome as a non-traditional student...

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Dr. Nicole Pacino
LAIS MA Student '07
Assistant Professor of History, University of Alabama - Huntsville.

Nicole earned her M.A. in Latin American and Iberian Studies for her thesis *La Hormiga Contra El Elefante: Copper Mining in Ecuador and the Transformation of a Small Andean Community - The Case of Junin* and later earned a Ph.D. in Latin American history from UCSB. Her work now brings her to the south to Huntsville, Alabama, where she has taught several courses including Colonial Latin America, US-Latin American Relations, and Women and Gender in Latin America.



An Interview with Dr. Pacino is coming soon. In the mean time check out her departmental website: [Dr. Pacino's Departmental Website](#)

Dr. Michael Perri
LAIS MA Student '93
Professor of History, Texas A&M University-Texarkana



Dr. Perri was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Faculty Award. He is a Texas A&M University-Texarkana Professor of History where he has taught courses including Colonial Latin America, Modern Latin America, and the Culture and History of Mexico. Dr. Perri earned his Master of Arts in Latin American and Iberian Studies at UCSB in 1993.

[Dr. Perri's Departmental Website](#)

New Books & Creative Activity from Faculty



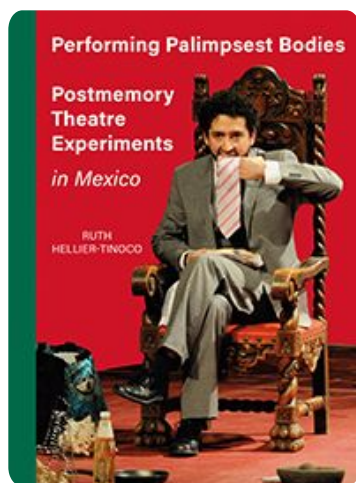
JUAN AND NATALIE COBO

La legislación de la arquidiócesis de Santafé en el periodo colonial

[The legislation of the archdiocese of Santafé in the colonial period] , 2018.

This edition, with an extensive introduction, critical apparatus, and a translation into Spanish of Latin texts, aims to make these important sources available to a much broader community of scholars in order to open this field to new research.

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PROFESSOR RUTH HELLIER-TINOCO

Performing Palimpsest Bodies: Postmemory Theatre Experiments in Mexico (2019)

Performing Palimpsest Bodies proposes the concept of palimpsest bodies to interpret provocative theatre and performance experiments that explore issues of cultural memory, bodies of history, archives, repertoires and performing remains.

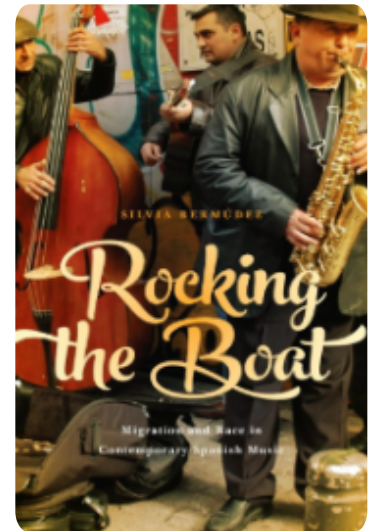
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PROFESSOR SILVIA BERMUDEZ

Rocking the Boat: Race and Migration in Contemporary Spanish Music, 2019.

LAIS Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Silvia Bermúdez's fascinating study reveals how Spanish popular music, produced between 1980 and 2013, was the first cultural site to engage in critical debate about ethnicity and race in relation to the immigration patterns that have been changing the social landscape of Spanish society since the late 1970s.

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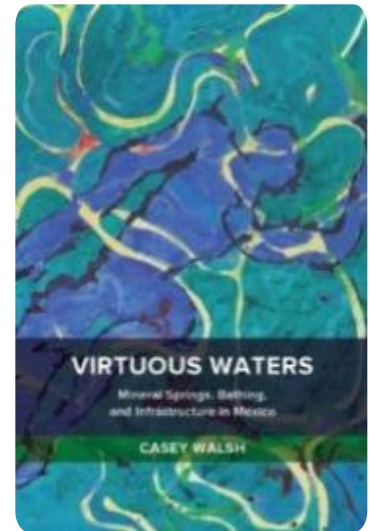


PROFESSOR CASEY WALSH

Virtuous Waters: Mineral Springs, Bathing and Infrastructure in Mexico, 2018.

Virtuous Waters is a pathbreaking and innovative study of bathing, drinking and other everyday engagements with a wide range of waters across five centuries in Mexico. Professor Walsh uses political ecology to bring together an analysis of shifting scientific, religious and political understandings of waters and a material history of social formations, environments, and infrastructures.

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Faculty in the News!



Cecilia Méndez was interviewed by La República about current events and politics in Peru.

[Read more](#)

Jeff Hoelle wrote an Op-Ed in the LA Times about the fires in the Amazon.

[Read More.](#)



Awards/Prizes



Student Awards

Undergraduate LAIS Major **Fátima Andrade Martínez** was awarded the "2019 Latin American and Iberian Studies Undergraduate Award for Exemplary Academic Performance." Congratulations Fatima!

LAIS Graduate Student **Denny Alvarez** was awarded the "2019 Latin American and Iberian Studies Award for Best LAIS MA Thesis." Congratulations Denny!

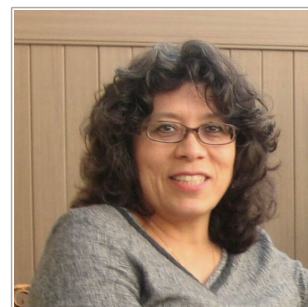
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Faculty Awards

Cecilia Méndez

LAIS Program Director Professor Cecilia Méndez is awarded the University of California Humanities Research Institute Fellowship to participate in the Residential Research Group, Civil War at UC Irvine for Fall 2019! Congratulations Professor Méndez!

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Juan Cobo

LAIS Vice-Director Juan Cobo and History Associate Professor has won a yearlong John Carter Brown Library fellowship for his project: "*The coming of the kingdom: the Muisca, the Catholic*



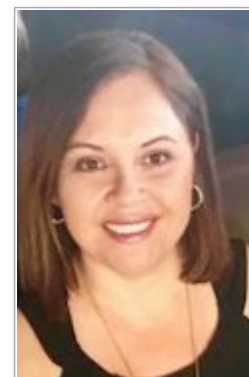
Reformation, and the Spanish monarchy in the New Kingdom of Granada.”

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Verónica Castillo Muñoz

LAIS affiliated faculty and History Associate Professor Verónica Castillo Muñoz won a long-term fellowship from the Huntington Library to work on her project: *“Women and Revolution: A Tale of Violence and Deception on the Mexico-U.S. Borderlands.”*

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Carlos Morton

LAIS affiliated faculty Carlos Morton recently was awarded the Fulbright Specialist, Aristotle University of Thessalonki, Greece, May, 2019. He has also produced the following plays in 2018: "Brown Baby," Rio Hondo College, L.A. 2018, "The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales," Occidental College, L.A. 2018, "Lilith," Franko Lviv University, Ukraine, 2018 , and "Little Mexico: Ayer y How," Teatro Dallas, 2018

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Looking back at our achievements in 2018-2019



LAIS Spring Picnic

May 10th 2019

This event was a small show of appreciation for all our affiliates. We hope you enjoyed the picnic!

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**May 7th, 2019, Lecture by guest speaker:
Professor Juan Carlos Estenssoro**

McCune Conference Room (6th Floor, HSSB) 4-7 PM

El indio anterior, o sea yungas, chunchos y serranos en el imaginario geográfico, social y pictórico (Perú, siglos XVI-XVIII).

Professor Estenssoro is a historian and professor of Iberian and Latin American Studies at l'Université Paris where he also directs the Center for Research on Colonial Spanish America (CRAEC)

The lecture was delivered in Spanish with an interpreter from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. It was followed by a short break and an extended Q and A session until 7:00 pm.

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UC SANTA BARBARA

Displacements:
peoples, politics, and rights

April 10th - 11th, 2019

FIRST LATIN AMERICAN AND IBERIAN STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

This academic conference brought together undergraduate students from California for a discussion on **Displacements: peoples, politics, and rights in Latin America and the Iberian World**. This event was unique to UCSB's campus because often, there are few opportunities for Undergraduate scholars to showcase their own original research.

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[Read Director Méndez's interview with UCSB's The Current here!](#)

UC SANTA BARBARA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. TERRY LYNN KARL

APRIL 10TH, 2019
4:00 - 5:30 PM

HARBOR ROOM, UCEN

"Massacres, Migration, and the Promise of Change"FIRST LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Displacements: peoples, politics, and rights

TERRY LYNN KARL is Gildred Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies (Emeritus) at Stanford University. She has published widely on comparative politics and international relations, with special emphasis on the politics of oil-exporting countries, transitions to democracy, problems of inequality, the global politics of human rights, and the resolution of civil wars. Her published works on oil, human rights and democracy include *The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States* (University of California Press, 1998), honored as one of the two best books on Latin America by the Latin American Studies Association, and the *Bottom of the Barrel: Africa's Oil Boom and the Poor* (2004 with Ian Gary). She has also co-authored *Limits of Competition* (MIT Press, 1996), winner of the Twelve Stars Environmental Prize from the European Community. Karl has published extensively on comparative democratization, ending civil wars in Central America, and political economy.

She has conducted field research throughout Latin America, West Africa and Eastern Europe. Her work has been translated into 15 languages. She has been an expert witness in major human rights and war crimes trials in the United States, which resulted in finding commanders responsible for "crimes against humanity" under the doctrine of command responsibility.

Karl writes extensively on comparative democratization, including works that first introduced the concepts of pact-making, modes of transitions, electoralism, and hybrid regimes. Karl also has a strong interest in U.S. foreign policy and has prepared expert testimony for the U.S. Congress, the Supreme Court, and the United Nations. She served as an advisor to chief U.N. peace negotiators in El Salvador and Guatemala and monitored elections for the United Nations.

Among her many awards and distinctions, she has been recognized for "exceptional teaching throughout her career," resulting in her permanent appointment as a Stanford Bass All-University Fellow. Karl was most recently honored at the Latin American Studies Association (Barcelona), where she spoke on Impunity: The Striking Parallels between Sexual Harassment at Harvard and Military Cover-Ups in Central America. She is a sought after public intellectual, most recently appearing in Politico, Forbes, BBC, NPR, Newsweek, Fox News, USA Today and the Chronicle of Higher Education.



LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN STUDIES

Sponsored by:
The College of Letters and Science, the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy, and the Departments of Black Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Global Studies, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish & Portuguese

[Read More](#)**Bolsonaro Roundtable:***The rise of Bolsonaro in Brazil: how did it happen, and what to expect next.*

Monday, December 3rd, 2018

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Event Co-sponsored by LAIS



LAIS Tertulia

The MesoAmerican Research Center, and the Study of the Maya Forest Gardens of El Pilar

Tuesday, January 29th, 2019

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LAIS 200 Seminar with Javier Puente:

Agrarian Quests: The Search for Comunidades and Campesinos in Rural Peru.

On Wednesday, January 30th, 2019

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LAIS Tertulia:

Understanding Venezuela's Crisis Tuesday, February 26th, 2019

A Roundtable with the Participation of: Kathleen Bruhn (Political Science, UCSB), Evelynne Laurent-Perrault (History, UCSB), Juan Pablo Lupi (Spanish and Portuguese, UCSB), and Andreína Soto Segura (History, UCSB)

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LAIS 200 Seminar with Arturo Escobar Wednesday, March 6th, 2019

A LAIS Graduate Recruitment Seminar event, featuring Colombian Anthropologist, renowned

intellectual, and Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Colloquium on Latin American and Caribbean History:

Cultural Heritage and Community: Protecting the Past for the Future in the Moche Valley, Peru. Alicia Boswell, History of Art and Architecture, UCSB

Wednesday, March 6th, 2019

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Event Co-Sponsored by LAIS