



NOTICIAS

A newsletter of the Program in Latin American and Iberian Studies.

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Letter from the Director



Late last Winter, as we were purchasing tickets and reserving hotel rooms for the two keynote speakers of our second International Graduate Student Conference “Borders, Power, Transgression,” COVID struck. Months later, we are still living in bleak, almost surreal times. Yet, in the midst of this climate of uncertainty and loss, I feel privileged to be directing this program, and have many things for which to be thankful. In LAIS we did not stop and continued to accomplish many things.

The conference has been postponed to Spring 2021. The advisory board is devising creative ways in which to hold it virtually, perhaps incorporating undergraduates. Tertulias moved to Zoom with great turnouts that reached international audiences, and one was even featured on the HFA website (see the article [here](#)). We also issued a call for “Tertulias in the time of COVID”, which has already attracted excellent proposals.

(Continue reading — please click [here](#) to read about our plans for the 40th anniversary of the submission of the first LAIS MA theses and news of our undergraduate and graduate program)

Cecilia Méndez

LAIS Director

Upcoming Events

Join us for *LAIS Tertulias in the Time of COVID, 2020-2021*. Tertulias are roundtable discussions led by UCSB faculty, graduate students and guest speakers on current and historic events in Latin America and the Iberian world.

Stay tuned for upcoming tertulias on the book *Caste: the origins of our discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (2/2/2021 at 12PM (PST)), and Indigenous and Black resistances in Mexico and Colombia. More details will be published soon, so please keep an eye on our website.

Propose your own Tertulia! There is still time to propose your own Tertulia for Winter and Spring. See details [here!](#)

See more upcoming LAIS events at <https://lais.ucsb.edu/news>

Join our LAIS email list to stay connected and learn about our events (email: lisamcallister@ucsb.edu)

Student Highlights

LAIS welcomes two new graduate students, Emma Laura Zamora and Marlene Torres-Magana.

Emma's research focuses on transnational communities, specifically individuals who commute, work, and live between the United States and Mexico. Learn more about Emma [here](#).



Marlene's research focuses on Latinx and Afro-Latinx identity formation and how it reflects the long colonial history of racial violence, anti-black, and anti-indigenous racism. Learn more about Marlene [here](#).

See all current LAIS graduate students at <https://lais.ucsb.edu/people/student> and learn more about the LAIS Graduate Program at <https://lais.ucsb.edu/graduate>.

Staff Highlights

Marisol Ramos



LAIS welcomes [Marisol Ramos](#) to UCSB as the new Subject Librarian for Latin American & Iberian Studies, Chicana/o Studies and Spanish & Portuguese. Marisol has assembled amazing Subject Guides to help LAIS affiliates with their research. Learn more [here](#).

News from our partners in PASC

Last year, Teresa Salinas was promoted to PASC Director. LAIS faculty, students and staff congratulate Ms. Salinas on her promotion.

In 2020, PASC welcomed Mayra Ponce Ascencio (Financial and Personnel Coordinator) and Tyler McMullen (Graduate Program Coordinator). Ms. Ascencio and Mr. McMullen have made great strides in supporting LAIS faculty and students excel.



Meet the LAIS and PASC Staff at <https://lais.ucsb.edu/people/staff>.

Faculty Highlights

LAIS [Advisory Board](#) says goodbye to Professor [Jennifer Tyburczy](#) as she prepares for her sabbatical, and welcomes Professors [Jaime Alves](#), [Leo Cabranes-Grant](#) and [Kai Thaler](#).

LAIS also welcomed three new faculty affiliates: [Miroslava Chavez-Garcia](#), [Melissa Morgan Consoli](#) and [Raquel Pacheco](#).

LAIS Faculty Grants and Fellowships



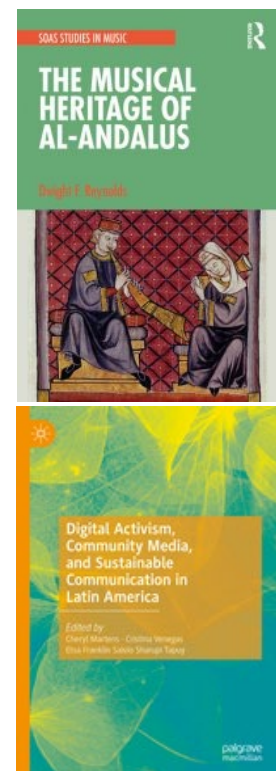
Congratulations to Professor [Paul Amar](#), Dr. [Anabel Ford](#), Professor [Evelynne Laurent-Perrault](#), Professor [Jennifer Tyburczy](#) and Professor [Cristina Vengas](#) for receiving major grants and fellowships!

- [Professor Paul Amar](#) (Director of the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, and Professor of Global Studies) and the Orfalea Center received major grants from the Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corp. Read more [here](#).
- [Dr. Anabel Ford's](#) El Pilar Project has been awarded a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate ancient Maya settlement patterns and human-environment interactions in the Maya Forest. Read more [here](#).
- [Professor Evelyne Laurent-Perrault](#) received prestigious awards to support her yearlong work on *Claims of Dignity: Black Women Political Imagination in Venezuela, 1730s-1809*. Read more [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.
- [Professor Jennifer Tyburczy](#) received a American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship to support her work on *Sex after NAFTA: Queer Flows and the Erotic Investments of Free Trade*. Read more [here](#).
- [Professor Cristina Vengas](#) received a UCSB Faculty Research Grant and an Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship for 2020-2021. Read more [here](#).

LAIS Faculty Publications

LAIS faculty have been busy publishing the last few months.

- Professor [Evelyne Laurent-Perrault](#) published in *Small Axe: a Caribbean Journal of Criticism* a fascinating piece engaging Vanessa K. Valdés's *Diasporic Blackness: The Life and Times of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg*. Learn more [here](#).
- Professor [David Lopez-Carr](#) published thought provoking articles on conservation in Latin America in several journals. Learn more [here](#).
- Professor [Dwight Reynolds](#) published *The Musical Heritage of al-Andalus* (Routledge/Taylor & Francis). Learn more [here](#).
- Professor [Cristina Vengas](#) co-edited *Digital Activism, Community Media and Sustainable Communication in Latin America* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). Learn more [here](#).



See more LAIS Faculty achievements at <https://lais.ucsb.edu/news>.

Learn more about LAIS Faculty Affiliates at <https://lais.ucsb.edu/people/academic>.

LAIS Faculty in the News

LAIS faculty, as experts in their fields, are regularly approached for interviews. Read interviews with Professor [Miroslava Chavez-Garcia](#), Professor [Suzanne Levine](#), and LAIS Director [Cecilia Méndez](#).

Alumni News



At LAIS we are proud of our alumni and their wonderful achievements. In this issue we highlight five alumnae. To share your achievements and news with the LAIS community and other LAIS alumni in our next newsletter, please email Lisa McAllister (lisamcallister@ucsb.edu).

- **Thelma Patnett (MA, 2018)** is a doctoral student in Cultural Anthropology at UC Riverside. Encouraged by her mentor Emiko Saldivar Tanaka (UCSB Anthropology), Thelma took the MA in LAIS as the first step towards a career in Latin American Studies. Learn more [here](#).
- **Justine Meyr (MA, 2010)** received her PhD in Education with an emphasis in Applied Linguistics from UCSB (2018) and is currently a lecturer in the Spanish and Portuguese department at UCSB. Learn more [here](#).
- **Nicole Pacino (MA, 2007)** received her PhD in History from UCSB in 2013 and is now an Associate Professor in History at the University of Alabama. Nicole pursued an MA in LAIS for its interdisciplinary nature and to help decide the focus of her future doctoral work. Learn more [here](#).
- **Christine Khrlobian (MA, 2019)** says LAIS influenced her career trajectory by exposing her to different kinds of research and people. Her research focus led her to a seasonal job in the Santa Monica College non-profit, The Broad Stage, in the education department, which needed an individual who understood the historical and present consequences of racial stigmatization in order to present accurate and culturally significant programming to serve their growing Latinx population. Learn more [here](#).
- **Fátima Andrade Martinez (BA, 2019)** currently works as a college adviser for a small non-profit called Boost@BerkeleyHaas. She plans to obtain a PhD in Applied Linguistics and focus her work on educational equity. Learn more [here](#).

Looking Back

LAIS Tertulias in the Time of COVID, 2020-2021

December 2020 | Social Movements, Identity, and Resistance in Contemporary Nicaragua



On December 1, 2020, we were joined by Cristina Awadalla (Sociology, UC Santa Barbara), Jennifer Goett (Comparative Cultures & Politics, Michigan State University), Mateo Jarquín (History, Chapman University) and Emilia Yang (Media Arts + Practice, University of Southern California) in a lively discussion about how the people of Nicaragua have faced a series of compounding crises over the past decade: the growing authoritarianism of the Ortega-Murillo government, assaults on women's and LGBT rights, colonization of indigenous and Afro-descendant

communities' territory, and, in 2018, mass protests that were harshly repressed by pro-government forces. Read more [here](#) and watch the recording [here](#).

November 2020 | Bolivia y Chile Hoy: ¿Democracia Reivindicada?



After a tumultuous year of contested elections, street protests, and state repression, Bolivia and Chile have evidently reached important turning points in their democratic struggles. Is democracy back to stay? In this roundtable tertulia, one public intellectual and activist, and two scholars joined us from Bolivia, Chile and Colombia, to offer their assessment and perspective on the recent events: Javiera Barandiarán (Global Studies, UCSB), María Galindo (founding member of the anarcho-feminist collective Mujeres Creando), and Tathagatan Ravindran (Social Studies, Universidad ICESI, Colombia). LAIS Director, Cecilia Mendez, joined us to briefly talk about the

situation in Peru; and the event was moderated by Jaime Alvez (Black Studies). Read more [here](#) and watch the recording [here](#).

May 2020 | Coronavirus and Historical Patterns of Epidemics in Latin America with Dr. Marcos Cueto

Professor Marcos Cueto (History of Health, Casa Oswaldo Cruz, FIOCRUZ, Brazil) joined us in May 2020 to talk about how historical studies on epidemics in Latin America have magnified fragilities in public health structures, revealed the vulnerability of the poor and discovered cases of heroism under adversity. Read more [here](#) and watch the recording [here](#).



LAIS Graduate Student Welcome Reception, September 2020

Our new graduate students, [Emma Laura Zamora](#) and [Marlene Torres-Magana](#) (read their interviews above), were warmly welcomed to the UCSB LAIS Program by our faculty, students and staff.

LAIS End of Year Awards Ceremony, May 2020

LAIS celebrated the end of the 2019-2020 academic year by honoring our students and faculty in a virtual End of Year Awards Ceremony.

Read more about the student awards [here](#)

Read more about the faculty awards [here](#).

LAIS Tertulia: Protests and Politics in Latin America: What is new in Chile and Colombia?

In March 2020 the LAIS community gathered for the *tertulia* "Protests and Politics in Latin America: What is new in Chile and Colombia?" which focused on current political situations and ongoing protests in Chile and Colombia.

Read more [here](#).

