2025-2026

ANNUAL *REPORT*

COLUMBIA | INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES


ILAS
Institute
of Latin
American
Studies
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT | 2025-2026

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PURPOSE

The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) is the center for research, teaching, and discussion on Latin America and the Caribbean at Columbia University. ILAS coordinates and facilitates academic and outreach programs on Latin America and the Caribbean across the different schools and departments at Columbia University. Its main goal is to bring together and provide resources for Columbia faculty, students, and visiting scholars, recognizing the diversity of their interests and approaches while strengthening their links with Latin America and with communities of Latin American origin in the United States.

HISTORY

Founded in 1962, ILAS is one of the oldest institutes of its type in the nation. The Institute draws upon a long and nationally distinguished history at Columbia dating back to the arrival of pioneers in their field, including Frank Tannenbaum (History, 1935-1962), Charles Wagley (Anthropology, 1946-1971), Albert Hirschman (Economics, 1958-1964), and Douglas Chalmers (Political Science, 1967-2005). Professor Frank Tannenbaum, the first ILAS director and one of the preeminent Latin Americanists in the United States since the 1930s, envisioned the Institute as a response to the need for knowledge about an area of central importance to United States foreign policy. The scope of the intellectual interests of the ILAS faculty and student community has grown and diversified since its inception. The study of the region has evolved into an area of hemispheric interactions and collaboration in the social and natural sciences as well as the humanities. It is a space of production and dialogue for scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and activists from all over the world. The relationship between Latin America and the United States involves cultural, social, economic, and political interactions that contribute to a broader understanding of Latin America and its diaspora.

The Institute's earliest roots at the University were in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, especially in the Departments of History and Anthropology. Over the years, ILAS became closely identified with the Department of Political Science, which provided many of its leaders and affiliated faculty. The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) developed in parallel with ILAS, and subsequently, the Institute was housed there until its return to the Arts and Sciences in 2010. Although ILAS's institutional home is the Division of Social Sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences, the Institute serves the entire Columbia community, including professional schools of international affairs, business, law, journalism, public health, social work, education, and architecture, and the Institute is governed by an Executive Committee composed of faculty from throughout the university and affiliated institutions, including Barnard College, Teachers College, and the Climate School.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Columbia offers a Master of Arts in Regional Studies – Latin American and Caribbean Studies (MARSLAC), an Undergraduate major and minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and a Certificate and Specialization in Latin American Studies for Master and Ph.D. students, providing opportunities for highly interdisciplinary education. ILAS typically has over 40 students pursuing degrees, concentrations, or specializations, while providing other opportunities for academic and professional enrichment to a much wider group of students through its public programming, student research and internship grants, and other initiatives. ILAS also collaborates with a variety of student groups on campus, providing financial support to student-led seminars, conferences, films, and other events, as well as co-organizing activities.

With financial support from the Tinker Foundation, the Lemann Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, ILAS has been able to award various fellowships and grants to Columbia faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and outside scholars to further their on-campus and field research, and enrich the ILAS academic community. Each year, ILAS typically hosts 10-20 visiting scholars, awards 10-20 student grants for research and internships, and supports faculty seminars, workshops, working groups, and conferences.

ILAS provides the venue for a variety of public events, including seminars, conferences, speaker series, and film series. ILAS typically organizes or co-sponsors 50-100 events per year on campus, including academic seminars and conferences, as well as talks by distinguished speakers, such as current and former presidents, ministers, and other high-level figures from the region. ILAS has four centers and programs that add particular strengths to the educational, research, and outreach activities of the Institute:

- Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies (LCBS)
- Center for Mexico and Central America (CeMeCA)
- Greater Caribbean Studies Program
- K-12 Outreach Program

ILAS also works closely with the Columbia Global Centers in Rio de Janeiro and Santiago, collaborating to support faculty research, co-organizing events on campus, in Latin America, and online, and strengthening connections and dialogue between the Columbia community and faculty, scholars, students, and decision-makers in and from the region.

ILAS is part of the New York City Consortium on Latin America, along with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University (CLACS) through which both universities collaborate toward strengthening opportunities for area and language studies research, instruction, and outreach in the New York City region and beyond.

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ILAS LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY

LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY OVERVIEW



EDUARDO MONCADA
Claire Tow Associate Professor of
Political Science at Barnard College

ILAS is overseen by a Faculty Director. Eduardo Moncada, Claire Tow Associate Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, took over the role of Director of ILAS in July 2025. Eduardo is a scholar of the politics of crime and violence in Latin America. His research centers on the political dynamics and consequences of criminal violence. His research contributes to several areas of study in political science, including subnational comparative analysis, urban politics, and Latin American politics. At the same time, his research has an important interdisciplinary component that bridges political science with debates in urban studies and criminology. Eduardo has conducted extensive fieldwork in Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, as well as South Africa.

Eduardo is the author of four books: *Cities, Business and the Politics of Urban Violence in Latin America* (Stanford University Press, 2016), *Inside Countries: Subnational Research in Comparative Politics* (with Agustina Giraudy and Richard Snyder, Cambridge University Press, 2019), *Resisting Extortion: Victims, Criminals, and States in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), and *Citizens, Criminals, and Claim-Making for Public Goods in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2026).

Resisting Extortion received the 2022 Outstanding Book Award from the Division of International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology (ASC), the Best Publication of 2022 from the Defense, Public Security and Democracy Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Honorable Mention for the 2022 Giovanni Sartori Book Award from the Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Honorable Mention for the 2023 Bryce Wood Book Award from the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and was the Co-Winner of the 2022 Best Book Award from the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime (IASOC). His research has been funded by the US National Science Foundation, the Fulbright-Hays Program, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council, among others.

The Director serves as chair of ILAS's Executive Committee, the main governance mechanism of ILAS, which is comprised of an interdisciplinary group of faculty from Columbia's School of Arts & Sciences (e.g., History, Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Anthropology, and Art History), Barnard College, and various professional schools (Teachers College, International Affairs, Architecture, and Business). The Director also serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the major and minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in Columbia College and the School of General Studies.

ILAS has over 140 affiliated faculty from across all Columbia schools and affiliated institutions who provide service to the Institute and its students. Faculty help organize scholarly activities, teach a wide range of courses with regional focus and content, and serve as mentors and thesis advisors for undergraduate and graduate students. ILAS-affiliated faculty come from a vast range of programs and disciplines. Particular disciplinary strengths encompass history, cultural studies, economics, political science, and international affairs, as well as strong faculty engagement in anthropology, education, art, and environmental studies, among other disciplines.

ILAS **STAFF**



GUSTAVO S. AZENHA
Executive Director &
Director of Graduate Studies

As Executive Director, **Gustavo Azenha** oversees the daily operations of the Institute and its affiliated centers and programs, serving as the chief budget and human resources officer, and managing programming, outreach, and development. He also serves as the Director of Graduate Studies for the MA program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. From 2013 to 2022, he directed the Columbia University Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies. Gustavo holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University, where his training and research focused on environmental anthropology and political ecology. He specializes in development and socioenvironmental politics in Brazil, with his primary research efforts directed towards examining the historical and contemporary interrelations between environmental, Indigenous, and economic development policies. More broadly, his interests and expertise encompass the politics of inequality and the role of civil society and social movements in public policy dynamics.

His research and professional experiences have included engagement with the politics of sustainable development, public health, and education & technology. Prior to joining ILAS, Gustavo held positions as a postdoctoral fellow at Barnard College's Department of Anthropology (through a National Science Foundation Fellowship) and as Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at SUNY Purchase College. He also worked for five years in applied global public health, engaging in advocacy and NGO capacity-building initiatives throughout Latin America.



ELIZA KWON-AHN
Senior Manager of Business
and Student Affairs

Eliza Kwon-Ahn joined ILAS in June of 2003 as an administrator. Over the years, she has garnered several promotions and is currently the Senior Manager of Business and Student Affairs. She oversees the financial aspects of the Institute and serves as the primary contact for all student-related matters. Eliza's experience prior to ILAS included being a sales and marketing manager for Latin America at a multinational company and working as a project research assistant for *Brazil: Body and Soul* exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum. Eliza holds a BA in East Asian Languages and Area Studies, Spanish, and Portuguese from Rutgers University. As a Henry Rutgers Scholar, she conducted graduate-level research on her senior thesis, *Koreans in Brazil: A Cultural Study of Life Between Two Cultures.* She also earned an MA in Latin American and Caribbean studies and an advanced certificate in museum studies from New York University. Eliza's research interest in Latin America is focused on Brazil, specifically arts and cultures, immigration and cultural assimilation, national identity, and social and educational development.

STUDENT STAFF

ILAS is grateful to its student staff, who are essential for the development and implementation of all of the Institute's public programming, communications, and academic initiatives. This past year ILAS student staff included:

Ana Matinpour
Barnard College

Carolina Soterio
Teachers College

Fernanda Vasconcelos Dias
Teachers College

Gustavo Maan Nogueira
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences,
Latin American and Iberian Cultures

Inara Bezerra
Teachers College

Isabella Pereira Nikel
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences,
Latin American and Iberian Cultures

Izabella Mancilla
Columbia College, Political Science

Jade Guerra
Columbia College, Political Science

Julia Uyeda Ogawa
School of Engineering and
Applied Sciences, Computer
Engineering

Junny Hernandez
Columbia College,
Economics

FACULTY LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

ILAS has over 140 distinguished affiliated faculty from across Columbia University and affiliated institutions. For a full list of affiliated faculty, including their areas of expertise and countries of interest see: https://ilas.columbia.edu/content/affiliated-faculty.

ILAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ILAS is governed by the Faculty Director and a committee of ten additional faculty members from a variety of different schools and departments, reflecting the disciplinary and intellectual diversity of the Institution, and the diversity of Columbia faculty engagement in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

CONTINUING MEMBERS

Ben Orlove, an anthropologist, has conducted fieldwork in the Peruvian Andes since the 1970s and also carried out research in East Africa, the Italian Alps, and Aboriginal Australia. His early work focused on agriculture, fisheries, and rangelands. More recently he has studied climate change and glacier retreat, with an emphasis on water, natural hazards, and the loss of iconic landscapes. In addition to his numerous academic articles and books, his publications include a memoir and a book of travel writing. He taught for many years at the University of California, Davis. At Columbia University, Orlove teaches in the Master's Program in Climate and Society, for which he serves as Associate Director. Orlove earned a BA from Harvard University and an MA and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.



Ben Orlove



Caterina Pizzigoni

Caterina Pizzigoni is an Associate Professor at the Department of History. She specializes in the colonial history of Latin America. Her interests include indigenous populations and the study of sources in Nahuatl (the Indigenous language of central Mexico), social history, household and material culture, religion, and gender. Her current research focuses on household saints in colonial Mexico.

Frances Negrón-Muntaner is Professor of English and Comparative Literature. M.A. in Visual Anthropology and Masters in Fine Arts, Temple; Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Rutgers. Frances Negrón-Muntaner is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and scholar. She is the author of *Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture* (winner, 2004 CHOICE Award), and the editor of several books, including *Puerto Rican Jam: Rethinking Nationalism and Colonialism*; *None of the Above: Puerto Ricans in the Global Era*, and *Sovereign Acts*. Among Negrón-Muntaner's films are *AIDS in the Barrio*, *Brincando el charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican*, and *War for Guam*. She is currently completing various films, including on *Valor y Cambio*, her award-winning just economy public art installation of the same name, and writing an intellectual biography on Arthur Schomburg.



Frances Negrón-Muntaner

Hugo Sarmiento is an Assistant Professor in the Urban Planning Program at Columbia GSAPP and a faculty affiliate at the Climate School. His research critically examines the political economy of urban climate adaptation and its relationship to spatial injustices, such as racial segregation and housing inequality. He draws on urban critical theory and political ecology to challenge the dominant paradigms and discursive practices associated with resilience theory. His research agenda centers the social movements, insurgent planning, and grassroots activism that shape adaptation strategies and our understanding of climate justice. Currently, his research focuses on climate displacement and urban development in Latin America and the United States, particularly the relocation of communities vulnerable to flooding in Colombia and community-based adaptation efforts in Chile.



Hugo Sarmiento



Lisa Trever

Lisa Trever is a specialist in the art history and archaeology of what is now Latin America, with a research focus on the ancient art and architecture of Pacific coastal South America. Since 2010 she has co-directed a major international research project at the ancient center of Pañamarca in the Nepeña Valley of Peru. Trever's books include *Image Encounters: Moche Murals and Archaeo Art History* (2022), *The Archaeology of Mural Painting at Pañamarca, Peru* (2017), and the co-edited volume *El arte antes de la historia: Para una historia del arte antiguo andino* (2020). Her research has been supported by grants from the National Geographic Society, the Provost's Office at Columbia, the Rubin-Ladd Foundation, the Rust Family Foundation, the Hellman Family Fund, the University of California Humanities Research Institute, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, and the Fulbright-Hays program. Trever currently serves as Director of the Columbia Center for Archaeology.

Manuela Orjuela-Grimm is a molecular epidemiologist and pediatric oncologist whose research focuses on vulnerability (including social) to environmental exposures, gene-nutrient/ environment interactions during windows of susceptibility such as pregnancy, early childhood, adolescence and the development of later genetic and epigenetic changes contributing to poorer health outcomes in childhood and adolescence. She leads EpiRbMx, a long standing case control/ case series study examining exposure to methyl donors, folate pathway metabolism and risk for retinoblastoma in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of investigators including the Hospital Infantil de Mexico, the Hospital de Pediatría at the Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social (IMSS), the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), and the University of Toronto. In collaboration with INSP researchers, Dr Orjuela is involved in multiple studies examining the intersection between food security, folate related dietary intake, dietary diversity and environmental exposures in central Mexico, including in migrants in transit through Mexico, and in recent Mexican immigrants in New York.



Manuela Orjuela-Grimm



Nicholas Limerick

Nicholas Limerick is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Education and Chair of the International & Transcultural Studies Department at Teachers College. Nicholas' research studies how educational movements plan for and promote bilingual education and speak and write in Indigenous languages, as well as how government and non-governmental technologies—large-scale exams, standardized writing, curriculum design—may force Indigenous languages and their speakers to change in the process. As a scholar of Latin America, Nicholas' research has focused on Ecuador, which includes one of the most remarkable cases in the world for Indigenous education. Activists there have directed a national bilingual school system for Indigenous students for more than 30 years. Nicholas' ongoing research and writing examines the intersections of colonial linguistics and policies, multilingual education, and current efforts to change institutions like policy offices and schools. Nicholas' research spans disciplines and fields like: linguistic and cultural anthropology, anthropology of education, political anthropology, international & comparative education, multilingualism, language revitalization, urban inequality and migration, culturally and linguistically relevant pedagogies.

Sarah Daly is Associate Professor (with tenure) of Political Science at Columbia University. Her first book, *Organized Violence after Civil War: The Geography of Recruitment in Latin America*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016 in its Comparative Politics series. It was runner-up for the 2017 Conflict Research Society Book of the Year Prize and is based on her Ph.D. dissertation, which was awarded the Lucian Pye Award for the Best Dissertation in Political Science. Her second book, *Violent Victors: Why Bloodstained Parties Win Postwar Elections*, was published by Princeton University Press in its International Politics and History series in November 2022.

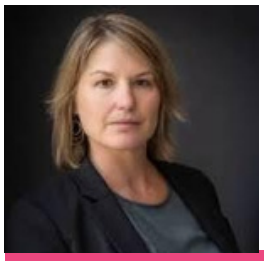
For this research she was named a 2018 Andrew Carnegie Fellow and received the Minerva-United States Institute of Peace, Peace and Security Early Career Scholar Award. Daly's research has been funded by multiple sources including the National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and American Council of Learned Societies. She has held fellowships at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University and Latin American Studies Program at Princeton University. Daly received a B.A. from Stanford University (Phi Beta Kappa), an M.Sc. from London School of Economics, and Ph.D from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Sarah Daly

NEW MEMBERS

Keri Brondo is Lambros Comitas Chair in Applied Anthropology at Teachers College. Her teaching and research interests include gender and development, indigenous identity politics, tourism, environmental anthropology, and applied, practicing and engaged anthropology. Keri's international research focuses on Garifuna land rights, women's activism, conservation and development policy and "voluntourism." In the United States, her work focuses on gender equity, applied and practicing anthropology, and collaborative research on the relationship between parks, people, conservation, and green infrastructure and social justice.



Keri Brondo



Marcia Macedo

Marcia Macedo is Assistant Professor, E3B and Columbia Climate School. Marcia studies the causes of tropical deforestation and their consequences for forests, rivers, and the climate. She explores how agricultural management and climate change are reshaping tropical landscapes by altering the hydrological cycle, regional fire dynamics, and biogeochemical cycling. To understand these multi-scale processes, she uses a combination of field observations, satellite data, and modeling, focusing on hotspots of connection between upland forests and aquatic ecosystems. Much of this work takes place in the Amazon and Cerrado biomes, with the goal of identifying science-based solutions to inform management and build social and ecological resilience. Recent projects have focused on translating data into information for operational use by state and Indigenous fire brigades and quantifying the exposure of rural populations to smoke from wildfires.

LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

Paulo Blikstein is Director of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies and an Associate Professor at Teachers College, where he directs the Transformative Learning Technologies Lab. He is also an Affiliate Associate Professor with Columbia's Computer Science Department. Blikstein's research focuses on how new technologies can deeply transform the learning of science, engineering, and mathematics. He creates and researches cutting-edge educational technologies, such as computer modeling, robotics, digital fabrication, and rapid prototyping, creating hands-on learning environments in which children learn science and mathematics by building sophisticated projects and devices. He also focuses on the application of data-mining and machine learning for the assessment of hands-on, project-based learning. Blikstein has spearheaded the FabLearn project, building advanced digital fabrication labs in middle and high schools in four continents. Paulo was also the Founder and Principal Investigator of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Education at Stanford, a 10-year initiative aimed at transforming public education in Brazil.



PAULO BLIKSTEIN

CENTER FOR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA (CeMeCA)



NARA MILANICH

Nara Milanich is Director of CeMeCA and Professor of History at Barnard College. Her scholarly interests include modern Latin America, Chile, and the comparative histories of family, gender, childhood, reproduction, law, and social inequality. Professor Milanich writes and publishes in both Spanish and English. Her most recent book is *Paternity: The Elusive Quest for the Father* (Harvard University Press, 2019). She has also published *Children of Fate: Childhood, Class, and the State in Chile, 1850-1930* (Duke University Press, 2009), and co-edited (with Elizabeth Quay Hutchison, Thomas Miller Klubock, and Peter Winn) *The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke University Press, 2013).

GREATER CARIBBEAN STUDIES PROGRAM


FRANCES NEGRÓN-MUNTANER

Frances Negrón-Muntaner is the Director of the Greater Caribbean Studies Program and Professor of English and Comparative Literature. M.A. in Visual Anthropology and Masters in Fine Arts, Temple; Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Rutgers. Frances Negrón-Muntaner is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and scholar. She is the author of *Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture* (winner, 2004 CHOICE Award), and the editor of several books, including *Puerto Rican Jam: Rethinking Nationalism and Colonialism*; *None of the Above: Puerto Ricans in the Global Era*, and Sovereign Acts.

K-12 OUTREACH PROGRAM


REGINA CORTINA

Regina Cortina is Professor of Education in the Department of International and Transcultural Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University. Professor Cortina's teaching and publications are advancing the field by focusing on Decolonial Theories in Comparative Education. Professor Cortina's book, published in 2017, *Indigenous Education Policy, Equity, and Intercultural Understanding in Latin America*, is a comparative study of policies designed to increase the educational opportunities of Indigenous students, protect their rights to an education that is inclusive of their cultures and languages, and improve their educational outcomes. Professor Cortina's other areas of expertise include gender and education, the education and employment of teachers, public policy and education, and the schooling of Latinx students in the United States. She holds a Ph.D. in Education, a master's degree in International and Comparative Education, and a master's degree in Political Science, all from Stanford University, as well as a bachelor's degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.

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VISITING PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

ILAS's visiting professors and scholar programs (https://ilas.columbia.edu/visiting-scholars-and-fellows) enrich teaching and research on campus, while establishing and sustaining institutional links with Latin American universities, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and other collaborators. ILAS typically hosts 10–20 visiting scholars each year. In the 2025-2026 academic year, ILAS hosted 7 visiting scholars. ILAS has an open call for Visiting Scholars who have secured outside funding, as well as a funded Tinker Visiting Professorship made possible through the Tinker Foundation.

THE EDWARD LAROQUE TINKER VISITING PROFESSORSHIP, an endowed visiting professorship program since 1971, has enabled the University to enhance its own students' academic development under the tutelage of some of the region's finest scholars, while at the same time fostering visiting professors' own professional growth. Each year, ILAS hosts at least two visiting professors from Latin America and the Caribbean, selected through a highly competitive process. ILAS has hosted over 100 Tinker Professors since the program's inception, including faculty from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and other countries. Past recipients of the Tinker Professorship include Edmar Bacha (Brazil), Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), Vania Markarian (Uruguay), Juan Pablo Luna (Chile), and Lilia Moritz Schwarcz (Brazil). For the 2025-2026 academic year, ILAS hosted two Tinker Professors, Daniela Campello (Brazil) and Mara Eskinazi (Brazil).

MARA ESKINAZI, FALL 2025



Mara Eskinazi is an Architect and Urbanist, and Associate Professor at the School of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU UFRJ) and at the Graduate Program in Urbanism (PROURB FAU UFRJ) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she has been teaching since 2011. She holds a Ph.D. in Urbanism from the Graduate Program in Urbanism (PROURB FAU UFRJ, 2013), including a doctoral research period at the Institut für Architektur of the Technische Universität Berlin (2011-2012), in Berlin, Germany; and a Master's in Architecture from the Graduate Program in Architecture of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (PROPAR FA UFRGS, 2008), in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In 2022-2023, she was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar and postdoctoral researcher at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, under the supervision of Professor Jean-Louis Cohen. Her academic and professional expertise spans Architecture and Urbanism, with an emphasis on architectural design as well as theory, history and criticism of architecture, working mainly on the following subjects: housing, modern architecture, particularly in the 1950s, continuity and criticism of modernity, foundation and conception of architectural design, façades and architectural devices for environmental control. At the undergraduate level, she teaches architectural design studios. In graduate studies, she is a member of the UrCA group (Urbanism, Criticism and Architecture), at PROURB FAU UFRJ, where she teaches and leads the research project "The Façade as an Interface: Design Repertoire", examining multi-family residential architecture in Rio de Janeiro through its façade plans. She also participates in the research group "Design Teaching and Research: The Production of Modern and Contemporary Architecture", at PROPAR FA UFRGS, in Porto Alegre. She is currently working on the book *Irmãos Roberto: Architectures for a City*, which examines the residential buildings designed by the Roberto Brothers for Rio de Janeiro, focusing on studying architectural design strategies that highlight the building's urban dimension.



DANIELA CAMPELLO, SPRING 2026

Daniela Campello is an Associate Professor of Politics and International Affairs at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation in Brazil. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from UCLA and previously served as an Assistant Professor at Princeton University. Campello has also been a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University (Oxford CAF) and a Resident Fellow at the Wilson Center for International Scholars. Her research sits at the intersection of international and comparative political economy, with a particular emphasis on the political consequences of globalization in emerging economies. Her work has been published in leading political science journals, and she is the author of *The Politics of Market Discipline in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and co-author of *The Volatility Curse* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). She is currently working on a new book project, provisionally titled *Obstructing the Future: The Politics of Climate Policy in Brazil.* Before entering academia, Campello worked as a business consultant at Accenture, a sell-side financial analyst at BTG Pactual, and as a project manager for the Rio de Janeiro state government, overseeing initiatives financed by international financial institutions.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

OVERVIEW

ILAS provides the venue for a variety of public events, including seminars, conferences, speaker series, and film series. ILAS typically organizes or co-sponsors 50-100 events annually, including talks, seminars, and conferences featuring scholars and distinguished speakers from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. ILAS also organizes cultural events focused on the arts, music, and film, as well as initiatives focused on journalism – including a collaboration with the Columbia Journalism School on the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes, the oldest international awards in journalism that recognize journalists and news organizations with a distinguished body of work that have contributed to Inter-American understanding. In developing its public events and outreach initiatives, the Institute benefits from its associations with outside cultural, diplomatic, philanthropic, multilateral, and corporate institutions in New York City and with other universities in the area.

COLLABORATIONS

ILAS has strong collaborations with various schools, departments, institutes, and centers on campus. For example, we work closely with the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Teachers College, Barnard College, and the Columbia Journalism School, as well as the departments of Latin American and Iberian Cultures (LAIC), History, Political Science, Anthropology, and Economics. We also frequently collaborate with other Columbia Institutes and Centers on public seminars and other events, as well as various student groups, such as the Latin American Students Association (LASA) at SIPA.

Collaboration highlights include working with the World Leaders Forum of the Columbia University President's Office to bring heads of state from the region to campus. We also frequently partner with SIPA in the organization and co-sponsorship of events, including co-organizing several events with SIPA's Institute of Global Politics (IGP), including collaboration on a roundtable discussion on *Drugs and Security: The Changing Landscape of U.S. Policy in Latin America*, as well as a Rapid Response Webinar on *Venezuela: What Happens Next?* to examine the future of Venezuela, Latin America, and energy markets following the US military operation to remove Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores.

Among our collaborations are several workshops and seminar series that emphasize faculty and student partnerships. This includes support for the Comparative Politics seminar series organized by the Department of Political Science, and the Columbia Latin American History Workshop (CLAHW) organized by faculty and graduate students in the Department of History. Other collaborators this year have included those with the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR), the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER), and the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

In addition, ILAS works very closely with the Columbia Global Centers in Rio de Janeiro and Santiago, collaborating to support faculty research, co-organizing events on campus, in Latin America, and online, and strengthening connections and dialogue between the Columbia community and faculty, scholars, students, decision-makers in and from the region. The Columbia Global Centers promote and facilitate the collaborative and impactful engagement of the University's faculty, students, and alumni with the world, to enhance understanding, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange. The Global Centers were founded to connect the local with the global, creating opportunities for shared learning and deepening the nature of global dialogue.

ILAS also partners with other universities. We have a longstanding and frequent collaboration with NYU's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) in the organization of events and other initiatives. We continue to support the New York City Latin American History Workshop – a long-running working group

organized between the graduate programs in Latin American History at NYU, Columbia, CUNY, and SUNY Stony Brook. Collaborations also include those with other universities outside of the New York City area, including Harvard, Stanford, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, as well as universities in Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and other countries in the region.

Through our Indigenous and Diasporic Language Consortium (IDLC), a partnership between Columbia, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at New York University, and the Mexican Studies Institute at Lehman College (City University of New York, CUNY), we strengthen language training opportunities, with a particular focus on less commonly taught languages, including Portuguese and Indigenous languages (e.g., Quechua, Nahuatl, and Mixtec). As part of these initiatives, ILAS provides support to workshops in Spanish and Portuguese language pedagogy in collaboration with faculty in Columbia University's Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures (LAIC) that are open to faculty from the IDLC, from other universities, and from K-12 schools in the New York City region and beyond.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING ***HIGHLIGHTS***

During the 2025-26 academic year, ILAS and its affiliated Centers organized or co-sponsored over 70 events to promote sustained dialogue around key topics of faculty, student, and public interest. Among the programming highlights this year are the following events:

VENEZUELA: CRISIS, CHANGE, AND CONSEQUENCES

ILAS organized a series of hybrid and online panel discussions to explore the current situation, drawing on the disciplinary diversity and methodological plurality of ILAS Faculty Affiliates while providing informed public discussion within the Columbia community and beyond. The series combined Columbia faculty with leading external scholars and experts from think tanks, government, and other institutions.



THE US AND VENEZUELA — HISTORICAL ROOTS AND CURRENT STAKES

This opening event situated the current crisis in historical perspective. The panel brought together expertise on the bilateral relationship, Venezuelan domestic political history, electoral politics, and contemporary U.S. policy. Speakers addressed the long-term trajectory of U.S.–Venezuelan relations, the origins of Venezuelan polarization, the July 2024 electoral fraud and its aftermath, and the implications of the January 2026 intervention.



VENEZUELA — MIGRATION AND HUMANITARIAN DIMENSIONS

The Venezuelan displacement crisis—with over 8 million people leaving the country—is one of the largest in the world. This panel examined the humanitarian dimensions of the crisis: the successive waves of migration and their regional impact; healthcare and humanitarian assistance in transit and resettlement countries; the educational challenges facing newcomer youth; and the implications of changing U.S. asylum policy and the collapse of USAID assistance. The panel brought together expertise on migration, health, and education with a focus on both sending and receiving communities.

VENEZUELA — DEMOCRACY, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND POLITICAL FUTURES

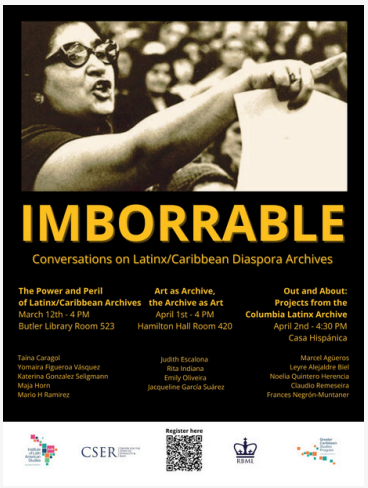
This panel bridged rigorous academic analysis with on-the-ground practitioner insight. Speakers addressed the trajectory of Chavismo and prospects for political change, civil society organizing under authoritarian conditions, transitional justice, and the role of international actors.

VENEZUELA — VIOLENCE, POLICING, AND ARMED ACTORS

This panel examined the security dimensions of the Venezuelan crisis: the transformation of policing under Chavismo, the rise of state violence, the proliferation of armed groups, and Venezuela's role in transnational organized crime. The panelists brought together leading scholarship and real-time analysis on violence in Venezuela, including ethnographic fieldwork, conflict event data, and practitioner-level intelligence on armed group dynamics across the region.

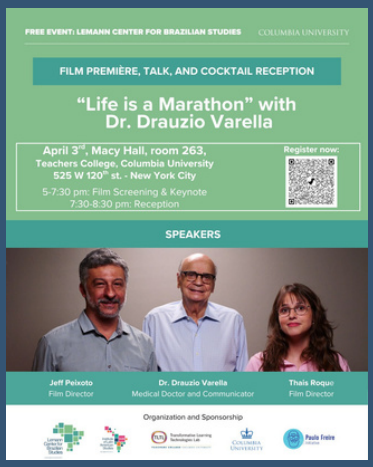
IMBORRABLE: CONVERSATIONS ON LATINX/CARIBBEAN DIASPORA ARCHIVES

ILAS co-organized a three-part series on Latinx/Caribbean Diaspora Archives. The series is organized by the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER), the Greater Caribbean Studies Program at the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), and the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML). The first roundtable, *The Power and Peril of Latinx/Caribbean Archives*, featured Latino and Caribbean studies scholars, curators, and archivists discussing the state of the field, the relevance of Latinx/Caribbean archives, and the potential and challenges of the current moment. The second roundtable, *Art as Archive, the Archive as Art*, gathered artists, scholars, and RBML fellows to discuss the relationship between art and the archive. The final roundtable, *Out and About: Projects from the Columbia Latinx Archive,* highlighted three projects that have emerged from the Latino Arts and Activisms collection at Rare Book & Manuscript Library.



"LIFE IS A MARATHON" WITH DR. DRAUZIO VARELLA

ILAS and its Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies hosted the famed physician, scientist, writer, and medical science communicator Dr. Drauzio Varella for a special screening of his biographical documentary *A Vida é Uma Maratona: Os novos limites da longevidade*. The film explores his personal journey with running and longevity, marking his return to New York where he ran his first marathon 33 years prior. The documentary highlights his sports trajectory, starting marathons at age 50, and completing 25 marathons including all six major world marathons.



PLAINS AND PAMPAS: COMPARATIVE INDIGENOUS BORDERLANDS

In collaboration with the Department of History, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER), the University Seminars of Columbia University, and the University of Connecticut's (UConn) Department of History, ILAS sponsored a 2 day workshop on the comparative historiography of indigenous borderlands. The conference brought together research focused on South and North America, taking stock of important shifts towards the more prominent role of indigenous scholars, settler colonialism theory, environmental history, and scholarly engagement with contemporary struggles. The workshop brought together scholars working in History, Anthropology, Native American and Indigenous Studies, and related fields. The workshop consciously went beyond national historiographical frameworks, opening the way to transnational approaches, aiming to deepen the continental comparisons of indigenous borderlands, tracing similarities and differences to develop connected approaches.



PAULO FREIRE INITIATIVE

Through the Paulo Freire Initiative, the ILAS organized another edition of the Paulo Freire Annual Conference as well as a series of seminars and workshops. Launched on September 19, 2021, Columbia University's Paulo Freire Initiative celebrates the centenary of one of the most influential educators of all time. The initiative, led by Teachers College and the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, promotes critical pedagogy, equity, and democratic education through lectures, research grants, and international collaborations. The Paulo Freire Initiative seeks to keep Freire's vision alive-celebrating education as a practice of freedom and a tool for social transformation.

BRAZIL: CONTESTED IMAGES

ILAS and its Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies co-sponsored a graduate conference focused on Brazil, its images, and aesthetic disputes, in which participants examined contested notions of Brazilianness and emergent aesthetic-visual regimes, from the production of films by the Maxakali, Kuikuro, Guarani-Kaiowá ethnic groups to the consolidation of a network of far-right videos disseminated in WhatsApp and Telegram groups. The conference explored what it means to be Brazilian in an interconnected virtual universe, where disputes over visual narratives about the self and the other are accentuated, and how such disputes surrounding Brazilianness go beyond the scope of national identity itself: they encapsulate anxieties, desires, and contradictions inherent to the contemporary global experience. The conference featured a keynote by Brazilian historian and anthropologist Lilia Moritz Schwarcz.





RECLAIMING THE LOST CENTURY OF GROWTH: LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

ILAS hosted a talk by William Maloney, Chief Economist for the Latin America and Caribbean region at the World Bank, who presented the key findings of his new publication, *Reclaiming the Lost Century of Growth: Building Learning Economies in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Building on historical analysis of challenges to economic growth in the region, the speaker argued that building the capacity to identify, adapt, and implement new technologies is a critical complement to any successful industrial policy.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING TODAY: TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES FOR GETTING THE STORY

In collaboration with the School of Journalism, ILAS organized a panel featuring Cabot Prize-Winning Reporters Covering Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Brazil, for a discussion on the craft and challenge of journalism in the region. Honoring reporting on Latin America & the Caribbean, the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes are the oldest international awards in journalism and were founded in 1938, when Godfrey Lowell Cabot of Boston founded the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes as a memorial to his wife. The prizes recognize journalists and news organizations with a distinguished body of work that has contributed to Inter-American understanding.



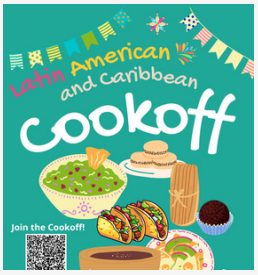


DRUGS AND SECURITY: THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF U.S. POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA

This webinar brought together scholars and policy experts to analyze two recent and significant developments: the U.S. government's decertification of Colombia's counter-narcotics efforts and the maritime bombing of Venezuelan boats amid allegations of organized crime and drug-trade links. Taken together, these events raise important questions about whether U.S. policy toward the "War on Drugs" in the region is undergoing a broader reorientation.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COOKOFF

Our annual Hispanic Heritage Month Cook-Off is a culinary event celebrating the diverse flavors of Latin America. Student organizations from the Columbia and Barnard community compete by preparing a sweet or savory dish that incorporates at least one ingredient native to the region (e.g., corn, beans, yuca).





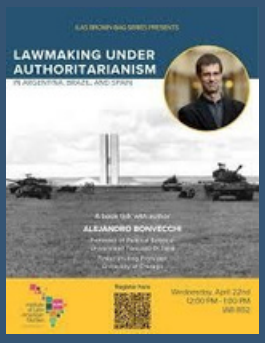
PRESS, FREEDOM, AND THE COST OF TRUTH IN VENEZUELA

ILAS co-sponsored a panel with the School of Journalism exploring freedom of the press in Venezuela. As Venezuela grapples with political instability while Nicolás Maduro faces trial in the United States, journalists covering this story face extraordinary challenges. This panel, composed of leading Latin American journalists, examined how censorship, intimidation, and lack of transparency about U.S. intervention shapes how reporters document this complex story. Panelists reflected on what is at stake for Venezuelans, press freedom, and democracy in the region.

OVERLAND MIGRATION IN CENTRAL AND NORTH AMERICA: DOCUMENTING EXPOSURE TO TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

Organized through ILAS's Center for Mexico and Central America, this hybrid event highlighted a collaboration between students and faculty at Columbia involved in the binational *Migrants in Transit, Food Security and Wellbeing* (METIAB) working group study. Faculty and student participants presented work done examining weather-related exposures for persons on the move. Researchers shared ongoing research and provided a space to discuss the intersection between temperature dynamics and overland movement.



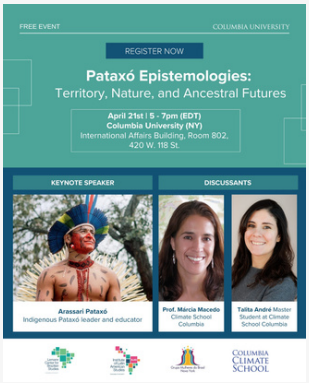


LAWMAKING UNDER AUTHORITARIANISM IN ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND SPAIN

ILAS hosted a book talk with Alejandro Bonvecchi, Professor of Political Science at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and Independent Researcher at the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), in which he presented a comparative analysis of authoritarianism. The analysis employed novel datasets based on extensive archival research and qualitative case studies for past dictatorships in Argentina, Brazil, and Spain to explore questions related to the variable influence of dictators on policy: Why are legislatures in some authoritarian regimes more powerful than others? Why does influence on policies and politics vary across dictatorships?

PATAXÓ EPISTEMOLOGIES: TERRITORY, NATURE, AND ANCESTRAL FUTURES

Coinciding with Earth Day, ILAS and its Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies hosted Arassari Pataxó, an indigenous Pataxó leader, educator, and advocate for the Pataxó community of the Barra Velha Territory, located in Bahia, Brazil. He is the creator of the initiative "Dia de Índio é Todo Dia" (Every Day is Indigenous Day), which focuses on environmental awareness, the defense of indigenous rights, and the strengthening of ancestral culture. His work involves mediating between his people's traditional knowledge and engaging in dialogue with external institutions to address themes such as climate, territory, and nature preservation. The event entailed a reflection on the formation of Brazil and the celebration of Earth Day through an epistemological lens anchored in ancestral knowledge. The presentation was followed by a dialogue with Professor Marcia Macedo, PhD, and Talita Andre, a Master's student at the Climate School, deepening the connections between ancestral knowledge, academic research, and the contemporary challenges of the climate crisis.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH



GENDER-BASED & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS WEAPONS OF CRIME IN HAITI

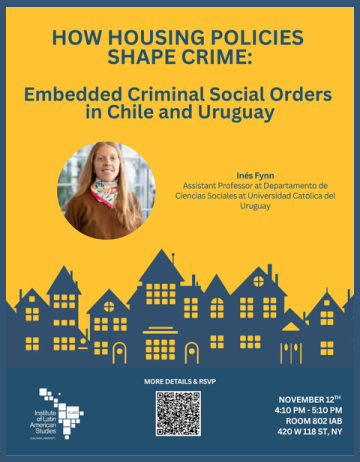
In the margins of the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), ILAS hosted a panel discussion dedicated to analyzing the nexus between sexual violence, gender-based violence (GBV), and organized crime in Haiti. The event was a collaboration between ILAS and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) and its Haiti Observatory (Haiti OBS).

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BALLOT BOX: BRAZIL'S ELECTORAL LANDSCAPE

ILAS and its Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies organized a talk on the Brazilian elections that zoomed out from this year's election headlines to explore the broader politics shaping the country today. This conversation moved past campaign rhetorics to examine the structural forces that define Brazilian politics. The talk was the inaugural lecture by a new Columbia faculty member, Cesar Zucco, who is the Lemann Family Foundation Professor of Brazilian Studies and Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

HOW HOUSING POLICIES SHAPE CRIME: EMBEDDED CRIMINAL SOCIAL ORDERS IN CHILE AND URUGUAY

ILAS organized a talk with Inés Fynn focused on investigating how historical housing policies shape contemporary forms of criminal governance in Latin America. Focusing on Chile and Uruguay—two countries often considered peripheral to the region's criminal violence epicenters—the talk explored how variation in community structures forged by past housing policies explains why some neighborhoods experience negotiated coexistence with gangs, while others are dominated through coercion. The talk engaged and further developed the concept of Embedded Criminal Social Orders (ECSOs) to capture these relational arrangements between gangs and communities. Unlike top-down models of criminal governance, the ECSO framework employed emphasized the local embeddedness of criminal groups in community networks, reciprocity norms, and organizational traditions. The findings presented argued that criminal orders are path-dependent: state interventions in urban space have enduring effects on the forms of local order that emerge under criminal influence. By integrating insights from collective efficacy theory and the comparative politics of crime, the presentation highlighted the central role of community agency and institutional legacies in shaping how crime and governance intertwine in urban peripheries.





MANO DURA IN TIMES OF DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING

ILAS organized a paper workshop that explored why Mano Dura campaigns sometimes contain criminal organizations despite extensive scholarship showing that militarized policing and mass incarceration are counterproductive. This workshop addresses this puzzle by examining variation in coercive anti-crime strategies in El Salvador and Venezuela. The paper argued that Mano Dura campaigns become effective when three conditions occur simultaneously: centralized executive power that weakens horizontal and vertical accountability, the organizational dislocation of criminal groups through centralized negotiations with their leadership, and rapid, high-intensity coercive campaigns that overwhelm fragmented organizations. The argument was evaluated through a qualitative historical comparison of six security campaigns in El Salvador and Venezuela. The author and presenter, Guillermo Sardi, is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at City University of New York, Grad Center, and a Visiting Scholar at ILAS.

1. ABOUT ILAS

2. ILAS LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY

3. VISITING PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

4. PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

5. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

6. ILAS CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

ILAS serves as a vital resource to students throughout the university. ILAS offers a Master of Arts in Regional Studies – Latin American and Caribbean Studies (MARSLAC), an undergraduate major and minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and a Certificate in Latin American Studies for Masters and Ph.D. students. The university also offers a Specialization in Latin American Studies for Masters students in International and Public Affairs, which is administered in coordination with ILAS. These programs provide opportunities for highly interdisciplinary education to students in a variety of schools and programs at Columbia and affiliated institutions.

ILAS typically has about 40 to 50 students pursuing degrees, concentrations, or specializations, while providing opportunities for academic and professional enrichment to a much wider group of students through its public programming, student grants, and other initiatives.

The Institute offers grant funding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research in the region or pursue internships, enabling them to deepen their knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean while developing their professional and research skills and expanding their professional networks. ILAS also collaborates with various student groups on campus, providing financial support to student-led seminars, conferences, films, and other events, as well as co-organizing initiatives.

The Institute launched a new workshop series for PhD students, the *Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Workshop Series*, made possible with the support of a grant from the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP). The Workshop is a year-long, interdisciplinary, and methodologically pluralistic space designed to strengthen graduate student research and training while building a community of scholars. This first edition of the workshop focused on the overarching theme of Governance, Inequality, and Civic Life in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants include PhD students from programs in Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Anthropology, History, Economics, International Education, and Urban Planning.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

ILAS offers an undergraduate major and minor. The Major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies is designed to give undergraduates the general mastery of a relevant discipline and, at the same time, permit them to do specialized work in the language, history, and culture of the Latin American region. The Minor is a recently created program, and was expanded this past year to be offered to Barnard College Students in addition to Columbia undergraduates.

The primary disciplinary strengths of the program are the social sciences. Students take core courses that provide a foundation in the language, history, politics, and cultures of Latin America, as well as courses in a discipline of their choice. The disciplines of choice include anthropology, art history and archaeology, economics, history, music, political science, sociology, Spanish and Portuguese, and urban studies. ILAS coordinates the Major and offers access to research support, study abroad options, and linkages and credits toward the MA program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. We have also created a 4+1 option for Columbia and Barnard undergraduate students, allowing students pursuing any major to complete graduate-level courses that count toward an MA through ILAS.

This past year, ILAS had 23 students in its undergraduate program. We have had 99 majors and concentrations, and two minors graduate since the creation of the programs. Alumni of ILAS undergraduate programs have gone on to pursue graduate degrees, including PhDs and professional degrees in law, business, and international affairs, as well as careers in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors in the US and abroad.

MA PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Regional Studies – Latin American and Caribbean Studies (MARSLAC) degree program was created in 2009. To date, we have had over 100 students graduate from the MARSLAC program.

The interdisciplinary MARSLAC program offers a comprehensive, social science-based approach to understanding the Latin American and Caribbean region. MARSLAC students deepen their knowledge of the political, economic, social, and cultural processes that shape the region. The program uniquely combines a highly interdisciplinary core curriculum with ample flexibility, allowing students to develop a custom-tailored program of study. The curriculum combines core seminars on region-specific scholarship and research design with the opportunity to take courses in different disciplines throughout Columbia University. ILAS provides partial tuition fellowships and/or research assistantships to most of its MARSLAC students, based on academic merit.

Our student body is highly cosmopolitan and diverse, encompassing a wide range of cultural, socioeconomic, and ideological backgrounds. We have had students hailing from Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Italy, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Singapore, South Korea, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United Kingdom. MARSLAC students bring diverse life, academic, and professional experiences to the program, enriching the learning experiences at ILAS. Our program has included immigrants who crossed the border as children, those who have worked in embassies and multilateral institutions, others with extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, military and air force officers, as well as journalists from around the world.

Alumni have gone on to pursue PhD programs in Political Science, History, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Education, Ethnomusicology, Latin American Studies, Urban Planning, and Comparative Literature at institutions such as Cambridge, Chicago, Columbia, Northwestern, Stanford, UC San Diego, Vanderbilt, Yale, and other universities. Other alumni have continued or established careers in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors, securing employment, for example, at the United Nations, the OECD, the State Department, the Department of Defense, and foreign governments, as well as the New York Times, CNN, LinkedIn, NPR, Reuters, Macmillan Publishers, the Nature Conservancy, and the Americas Society/Council of the Americas.

GRADUATE SPECIALIZATION AND CERTIFICATE

Columbia offers a Specialization and a Certificate in Latin American Studies to graduate students who complete an interdisciplinary program in conjunction with their own departmental degrees. These programs complement the intellectual and professional development of students across the university, helping them develop language skills, cultural competencies, and empirical expertise that provide an essential foundation for successful academic and applied careers involving the region.

The Specialization is offered to graduate students in International and Public Affairs, pursuing an MA in International Affairs or Public Administration. Specialization students were required to take three approved courses focused on political, economic, and other aspects of the region. There are about 10 students pursuing a specialization each year. Starting this academic year, the Specialization for SIPA students is being replaced with a Minor with similar requirements.

The Certificate administered through ILAS is open to master's and doctoral students across the university, who are awarded the certificate based on demonstrating foreign language proficiency and completing 8 Latin American-focused courses in anthropology, art history, economics, education, history, literature, political science, law, and urban planning.

STUDENT GROUP COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT

ILAS collaborates with the rich variety of student groups on campus, providing financial support to student-led seminars, conferences, films, and other events, as well as co-organizing initiatives. The Columbia campus includes 38 organizations focused on Latin America and the Caribbean and/or Latinx communities, including groups affiliated with Columbia College and professional schools (e.g., Business, Law, and International Affairs). ILAS holds periodic meetings with these groups for them to connect with each other and to stimulate collaborative initiatives. Student organizations that ILAS supports and collaborates with include:

Alianza
Afro-Brazilian Alliance (AFRA)
Argentine Student Association (ARSA)
Association of Latin American Students (ALAS, Teachers College)
Association of Latino Professionals of America (ALPFA)
Brazil Club at Columbia Business School
Brazil Talk
Brazilian Society
Caribbean Students Association (CSA)
Casa Latina
Chicane Caucus
Chileans at Columbia
Coalition of Latinx Scholars (CLS, Teachers College)
Colombians @ Columbia
Columbia Brazilian Association of Students and Scholars (CBASS)
Columbia Latin American Business Law Association (CLABLA)
Columbia Law School Brazilian Association
Columbia Law School Chilean Association
Columbia Mentoring Initiative - Latinx Family Tree
CU Boricuas
Ecuadorian Students Association
Dominican Students Association at Columbia
Grupo Quisqueyano (Dominican Students Association)
Hispanic Pre-Law Society
Latin American Business Association (LABA)
Latin American Student Association (LASA)
Latin GSAPP Association
Latinx Heritage
Latinx Law Schools Students Association
Latinx Pre-Professional and Educational Network (LPEN)
Mexican Students Association (MEXSA)
Mujeres (Barnard)
National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Portales: The Undergraduate Journal of Latin American and Iberian Cultures
SABOR
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
Student Organization of Latinxs (SOL)
Venezuelan Students Association (VENSA)

HIGHLIGHTS OF ILAS SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT OF STUDENT INITIATIVES THIS YEAR INCLUDED

Leading the organization of the *Latin American and Caribbean Cookoff Competition*, with the participation of many student groups.

Supporting *Ecuadorians at Columbia* for the organization of a moderated panel featuring six Ecuadorian professional guest speakers from across tech, finance, medicine, law, fintech, and engineering industries, with the goal of exposing Ecuadorian undergraduate and graduate students to a range of professional trajectories by circulating sector knowledge, fostering networking opportunities, and inspiring attendees to embrace their identity as an asset in their career development.

Supporting the *Latin American Student Association* (LASA) at SIPA in the organization of a panel with experts from Latin America who have disrupted sectors and built brands and legacies as entrepreneurs in the international market.

Supporting the *Mujeres* group at Barnard and *Latinx Pre-Professional and Educational Network* (LPEN) in organizing a panel of graduate students that incorporates individuals from different pre-professional pathways, creating a space for Latine students to ask questions and explore what these higher education opportunities could look like for them.

Supporting *Columbia Por Colombia* in its organization of a "Noche de Velitas" holiday celebration on campus featuring traditional Colombian dishes.

Supporting the *Graduate Student Association of the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures (GALAIC)* in organizing a two-day conference, *Brazil: Contested Images*, that brought together scholars to examine contemporary Brazilian cultural, artistic, and intellectual production.

Supporting the *Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA)* in their organization of the *ALPFA Leadership Summit* a panel discussion and networking space, which included professionals from various fields, including finance, consulting, law, medicine, and engineering, as well as Latinx influencers for a discussion of leadership within these industries and on navigating careers in varied professional environments.

STUDENT GRANTS

With partial support from the Tinker Foundation, ILAS typically supports between 10-20 student pre-dissertation research grants. ILAS selected 13 pre-dissertation research grants for support during the 2025-2026 academic year. ILAS also selected 11 student research proposals for support for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Our student grants competition provides resources for students in schools and departments throughout the university, including economics, political science, anthropology, music, history, sociology, ecology, international & comparative education, human rights, urban planning, and art history.

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

PROJECT TITLE	STUDENT NAME	PROGRAM
Panamazonian Poetics: Visual Arts and Ecological Resonances in the 21st Century	***ANA LUIZA ABREU-CLAUDIO***	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
Building Economic Resilience in the Northern Triangle: Lessons from Trade Shocks and Green Financing as a Pathway	***ANDREA MURCIA MORALES***	MARSLAC
Coordination in the Context of Weak Institutions: A Study of the Subnational and National Government Resource Management in the Peruvian Amazon Region of Loreto	***BRIANA PEREZ REATEGUI***	MARSLAC
Digital Payments and Informal Firms in Peru	***DAFNE MURILLO***	Economics
Caring in Precarity (Exclusion): Venezuelan Migrants and the Making of Care Infrastructures in Lima, Peru	***DANIELA PERLECHE UGAS***	Urban Planning
Recalcitrant and Submerged: Claims to Sovereignty and Aqueous Space in the Puerto Rican Deep Sea	***ELENA VANASSE TORRES***	Anthropology
Unfamiliar Communities: Futurity and Desire under Neoliberalism in Argentina and Spain (1985-2010)	***FLOR BARCELO***	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
France's Last Colony: The Territory of Inini's Incorporation into the French State	***HAZEL RICHARDS***	History
The Fabric of Struggle: Arpilleras as a Voice of Resistance in Brazil and Chile	***ISABELLA PEREIRA NIKEL***	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
Decentralization and Transitional Justice: Challenges and Appropriations of Peace Pedagogies in Colombian Schools	***LEONARDO AREVALO-ROJAS***	International and Transcultural Studies
How do the Categorical Distinctions of Violence as Organized Crime or Armed Conflict impact Humanitarian Assistance	***MARIA PAULA SALAZAR VALIENTE***	Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Perceptions of Urban Risk: Disasters as a Mode of Urbanization	***MAURICIO RADA-ORELLANA***	Urban Planning
Navigating Asylum: Politics, Indigeneity, and Guatemalan Refugees in Mexico, 1979-2002	***THOMAS MAGGIOLA***	History

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS SELECTED FOR SUPPORT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

PROJECT TITLE	*STUDENT NAME*	*PROGRAM*
The Aesthetics of Inheritance Law in the Eighteenth-century Anglophone Atlantic	***ANGELINA CORONADO***	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
The Impact of Declining Animal Populations on the Diversity and Spatial Distribution of Trees in the Amazon	***ENIKOE BIHARI***	Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology
Evaluating Plasticity in Tree Water-uptake Depth as a Potential Mechanism of Drought Resilience in the Peruvian Amazon	***ISABEL DEL TORO MIJARES***	Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology
Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Strategic Trade-Offs in Domestic Security Provision	***ISABELLA MARIN QUINTERO***	Political Science
Geological Aesthetics: Visual and Textual Practices in Contemporary Argentinian Art	***JANA SOLER LIBRAN***	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
The Confederation Rebellion and the Politics of Black Ideals in Post-Emancipation Barbados, 1876	***JORDAN POWELL***	History
Conscripting the Displaced: Colombia in the Korean War and the Exporting of Violence, 1948-1954	***LAURA JARAMILLO***	International and World History
Living with Risk: Disaster Governance in Peripheral Urban Areas	***MAURICIO RADA ORELLANA***	Urban Planning
Pre-Colonial Replicas and Mold-Made Forms in Contemporary Mexican Art	***MAYA WILSON-SANCHEZ***	Art History and Archaeology
Parafictional Prisons: Artistic Performance, Carceral Fugitivities, and Political Imagination in Argentina, 1966-1983	***PAT SANTALICS TORRES***	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
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ILAS CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

Established in 2001 as the Center for Brazilian Studies by two renowned experts on Brazil, economist Albert Fishlow and political scientist Al Stepan, the Center was endowed and renamed the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies (LCBS) in 2015. The LCBS offers a place for scholars and students to pursue and share research and scholarship related to Brazil. The LCBS has become one of the premier centers for academic and public policy discussion and debate about Brazil. The leadership and influence of the LCBS benefit from its privileged location. The New York City region is a major hub for Brazilian immigrants and is home to numerous Brazilian businesses, diplomatic institutions, and cultural organizations. This environment fosters a strong interest in Brazil, and unparalleled opportunities for collaborations with external private, public, non-governmental, and intergovernmental organizations.

The location of the LCBS and the rich on-campus engagement with Brazil have transformed the Center into a uniquely robust space for scholarship and learning about Brazilian history, culture, and its political, economic, and public policy dynamics. The LCBS provides support for Columbia faculty research with a focus on Brazil. The Center is committed to training future leaders for careers in academia, government, nonprofit, and private sectors. Serving as the key focal point for all students and faculty at Columbia with an interest in Brazil, the LCBS's largest constituencies include faculty and students affiliated with Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, Teachers College, and the numerous academic units of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The LCBS also helps to promote collaborations between the Columbia community and Brazilian scholars and institutions, working closely with the Columbia Global Center | Rio de Janeiro. The Rio Center serves as a hub for Columbia programs and initiatives related to Brazil. Established in 2013, the Center contributes to Brazil's academic and research environment, enabling Columbia community members to expand their knowledge and explore educational opportunities within Brazil. The Center works in collaboration with local universities, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions to design cross-cutting, innovative programs that aim to improve the understanding of global challenges through a transdisciplinary, transcultural, and applied perspective.

Ongoing events, lectures, and seminars hosted by the Center foster a lively and engaged community of local and international alumni, students, and faculty. Their work is to promote Columbia in Brazil by creating opportunities for the academic community to interact with our local base of partners. In the brief time since its launch, the Rio Center has established critical networks throughout Brazil and generated extensive research, debate, and educational programming focused on local issues. It informs the University's approach to analysis and research on Brazil and draws support for Columbia within Brazil. Through the advancement and exchange of knowledge, the Global Center | Rio de Janeiro aims to strengthen academic research, social impact entrepreneurship, and the development of innovative technologies in Brazil.

The LCBS's rich programming includes sponsored seminars and lectures on contemporary and historical aspects of Brazil, including culture, education, equity, economics, and politics. The LCBS is a regular forum for lectures and conferences featuring visiting Brazilian academics, government officials, business leaders, political actors, and representatives from civil society. The LCBS typically organizes or co-sponsors over 40 events a year.

The LCBS collaborates with other Columbia-affiliated entities in developing and organizing events, including the Global Center | Rio de Janeiro, the School of International and Public Affairs, the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures (LAIC), the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER), Teachers College, and other CU schools, departments, centers, and institutes. Its public programming often involves collaborations with other academic institutions (e.g., Brown University, Harvard University, New York University, Princeton University, Stanford University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, UNICAMP, USP, UFRJ, and Fundação Getúlio Vargas), and other outside organizations (e.g., the Consulate General of Brazil in New York, the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce, and Americas Society/Council of the Americas).

The LCBS has hosted leading Brazilianist scholars and prominent political figures, including President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Minister Marina Silva, President Dilma Rousseff, and former Mayor of São Paulo and former Minister of Finance, Fernando Haddad. Past guests include renowned economist Edmar Bacha, former Central Bank Presidents Arminio Fraga and Henrique Meirelles, and Ambassadors Antonio Patriota and Alfredo Graça Lima.

The LCBS supported students through travel funding to academic conferences and other academic activities. The LCBS also assisted with the selection and coordination of the Lemann Fellowship program, which aims to support the education of students committed to building a stronger, more effective public sector, promoting corporate social responsibility, and contributing in other innovative ways to foster positive social change and economic development in Brazil. The Fellowships are made possible through the generosity of Brazilian entrepreneur Jorge Paulo Lemann and the Lemann Foundation. The LCBS also works closely with student groups in developing seminars and events, including the Undergraduate Brazilian Society, the Paulo Freire Initiative, and the Graduate Student Brazil Talk organization. The LCBS has also worked closely with the Columbia Brazilian Association of Students and Scholars (CBASS), as well as connecting with faculty, scholars, and alumni in the New York City Area.

CENTER FOR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Center for Mexico and Central America
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

In 2013, Columbia University founded the Center for Mexican Studies (CMS). In 2021-22, the Center for Mexican Studies became CeMeCA, the Center for Mexico and Central America. The Center serves as an educational and research platform at Columbia from which to research, teach, imagine, and engage with Mexico and Central America.

During its first eight years, the Center served as a vital space to explore “Greater Mexico” at Columbia. Its mission was to examine North American integration through a southern prism. With its explicit acknowledgement of Central America, the renamed Center elevates the historical and contemporary dynamics that shape our hemisphere.

Today, Central America, Mexico, and the United States are interconnected by transnational flows of various types, including capital, commodities (both licit and illicit), and people. These flows have profound political, economic, social, and cultural implications for people throughout the region. So too do shared histories of colonialism and empire.

In addition to serving as a hub of scholarly activities in Mexico and Central America, CeMeCA serves as a lab for exploring the intersection of academic research and advocacy/activist work in and on the region. For example, among the Center’s past initiatives have been a series of applied research projects (https://ilas.columbia.edu/content/applied-academic-projects) under the guidance of the Director of CeMeCA, Nara Milanich, that tackle some of the region's most pressing challenges, including state violence within and across borders, corruption, and forced migration and its criminalization. An ongoing initiative of the Center for the past several years has been publishing content through the Regional Expert Paper Series (https://ilas.columbia.edu/content/regional-expert-paper-series). This initiative aims to make timely academic research on and about Central America and Mexico accessible to a broad, interdisciplinary, and multilingual publics.

CeMeCA also sponsors events, workshops, and seminars. The Center’s public programming encompasses a diverse range of topics, featuring experts from various disciplinary and professional backgrounds.

GREATER CARIBBEAN STUDIES PROGRAM



The Greater Caribbean Studies Program at ILAS was founded in 2013. Unlike most other programs of Caribbean Studies in the United States, which limit their scope to the Antilles, our Program encompasses the entire Caribbean basin, the Atlantic coast of Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, much of Central America, parts of Mexico, and US cities like New Orleans. The Program delves into what the region has in common – geography, climate, ecology, historical trajectory, and cultural traditions – and also its great linguistic, racial, social, political, and economic diversity in a comparative manner that connects the study of Latin America to that of the non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean, redrawing and disrupting the traditional limits of area studies.

The Program is not just an academic endeavor; it's a bridge connecting scholars with a broad spectrum of communities and institutions. Historically, scholars specializing in Caribbean studies have often worked in isolation, focusing on specific sub-regions. The Program aims to create a dynamic space for scholars, artists, and leaders to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions, fostering a comparative approach and holistic view of the Greater Caribbean.

The Program's location in New York offers significant advantages for students, researchers, and visitors. The city has been closely linked to the Caribbean from the seventeenth century to the present when nearly a quarter of its inhabitants are of Caribbean descent. Moreover, according to the 2021 New York City Office of Immigrants report, five of the top countries of origin of the city's new immigrants were born in a Caribbean country: Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti. Since 2022, over 100,000 immigrants from Venezuela have also arrived in the city. In addition, Puerto Ricans, who are colonial migrants, number 1.2 million or 9% of the city's population.

The heart of our program is innovation, community, and collaborative thinking. We invite all interested in Caribbean Studies to join us at Columbia University on this journey. As we explore the intricacies of the Greater Caribbean, we aspire to create impactful knowledge that resonates beyond academia, contributing to education, arts, public policy, and much more.

In 2024, the program published a report, based on a listening tour to identify faculty and students conducting research and other activities about the Greater Caribbean, with the aim of producing knowledge about the field's history at Columbia and creating a blueprint for the future. To see this report click here: "Keep it Going": Report on Greater Caribbean Studies at Columbia University.

Past highlights of Greater Caribbean Studies Program activities include hosting President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, Vice President Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado of Panama, President Luis Guillermo Solis Rivera of Costa Rica, and President Luis Abinader Corona of the Dominican Republic as part of Columbia University's World Leaders Forum. The Greater Caribbean Studies Program has also co-sponsored a series of talks, including a roundtable with Cabot Prize-winning journalists on issues of censorship in Venezuela and a conversation with salsa musician Rubén Blades.

K-12 OUTREACH PROGRAM

ILAS's K-12 Outreach Program enhances the professional capacity of teachers in a multicultural NYC environment and promotes the inclusion of Latin American history and culture in their classrooms and students' daily lives. The program leverages the expertise and support of faculty and students across Columbia University to develop resources and opportunities for educators to explore creative ways of incorporating Latin American history and culture into their school programs and curricula. The program involves Teachers College faculty, students, and experts.

A core component of the ILAS K-12 Outreach Program has been the creation of K-12 Latin American Resource Guides for New York City teachers, supporting professional development and strengthening teaching and learning about the region. ILAS has produced 11 volumes in this series (https://ilas.columbia.edu/education/k-12). The two most popular guides are *Cultivating Identity and Community through Latin American Sports and Games*, and *Supporting Latino Students with Interrupted Formal Education: A Guide for Teachers*.



The other component of the ILAS K-12 Outreach Program is the organization of public development activities. We have been partnering with the New York City Department of Education to facilitate professional development workshops for the last three years, incorporating Latin American sports and games activities in a culturally relevant way, using our curriculum guide, "*Cultivating Identity and Community through Latin American Sports and Games*" (https://academiccommons.columbia.edu/doi/10.7916/et6n-kc14). The K-12 Outreach Program disseminates content to educators and maintains contact with its constituencies through a monthly newsletter and LinkedIn.

This past academic year, ILAS developed and launched a bilingual guide for educators to work with immigrant parents to navigate language, culture and education together. The guide, entitled Bridging the Gap: A Guide for Parents and Teachers to Navigate Language, Culture, and Education Together, is intended for both teachers and parents of Colombian, Haitian and Venezuelan newcomers. This guide aims to bridge the gap between newcomer families and schools, while supporting the unique needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) and Multilingual Learners (MLLs). This past year, ILAS has also been developing a new curriculum guide on Latin American Studies for high schools.

Institute of Latin American Studies

ILAS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Website
http://ilas.columbia.edu/

Instagram
@ilas_columbia_edu

Address
Institute of Latin American Studies
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

Phone
(212) 854-4643
Fax
(212) 854-4607

Email
ilas-info@columbia.edu