



Institute of Latin American Studies
Columbia University

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025



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ABOUT ILAS

ABOUT ILAS

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.

SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

ILAS offers a Master of Arts in Regional Studies - Latin American and Caribbean Studies (MARSLAC), an Undergraduate major, minor, and concentration in Latin American 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 50 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 U.S. Department of Education, the Lemann Foundation, the Foundation for Argentinean Development (Fundar), and the Provost's Office, 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 5-15 faculty grants to support research, 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 around 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 five 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
- Argentine 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.

ILAS LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY

ILAS LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY

LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY OVERVIEW

ILAS is overseen by a Faculty Director. The Director serves as chair of the ILAS's Executive Committee, the main governance mechanism of ILAS, which is comprised of a highly 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 (Teacher's 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.



[Maria Victoria Murillo](#), Professor in the Department of Political Science and the School of International and Public Affairs, served as the Director of ILAS for the past six years (July 2019 to July 2025). Professor Murillo's research on distributive politics in Latin America has encompassed labor politics and labor regulations, public utility reform, education reform, agricultural policies, land conservation, and economic policy more broadly. Her work on political parties analyzes both their coalitional and policy implications as well as their linkages with voters in new democracies. Her empirical work is based on a variety of methods, ranging from quantitative analysis of datasets built for all Latin American countries to qualitative fieldwork

in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela, and surveys and experiments in Argentina and Chile. Murillo received her BA from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and her MA and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Murillo has taught at Yale University, was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University, a Fulbright scholar, and a Russell Sage Visiting Fellow.



As of July 1, 2025, [Eduardo Moncada](#), Claire Tow Associate Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, has taken on the role of Director of ILAS. Moncada is a scholar of the relationship between illicit global economies, organized crime, and democracy and citizenship in the developing world. He has conducted extensive fieldwork on these issues in Colombia, El Salvador, and Mexico. In his current research, Moncada is analyzing the relationship between criminal governance and citizen claim-making for public goods and services using qualitative data collected through extended fieldwork in Mexico City. His research has received awards from the American Political Science Association, the Latin American

Studies Association, and the American Society of Criminology. Moncada received his BA from Long Island University, an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Miami, and his MA and Ph.D in Political Science from Brown University. Moncada's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Ford Foundation, and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, among others.

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.

For a complete list of affiliated faculty, including their areas of expertise and countries of interest see: <https://ilas.columbia.edu/content/affiliated-faculty>

ILAS STAFF



GUSTAVO S. AZENHA

ILAS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AND
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.



ROMINA QUEZADA

**PROGRAM
AND OUTREACH
MANAGER**

Romina Quezada is the Program and Outreach Manager of ILAS. She manages faculty affairs, public programming, outreach, and communications initiatives for ILAS and its affiliated Centers and programs. Originally from Mexico, Romina holds a PhD in International and Comparative Education from Teachers College. She has conducted research on education policy in Latin America and its interaction with the global and the local. Her lines of work have included: public diplomacy toward Indigenous peoples, Indigenous peoples in global education, human rights education, and comparative national education systems. Over the past few years, Romina was Rapporteur of the Indigenous Studies Seminar and assisted the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program Director at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University in teaching and administration. At ILAS, Romina has previously coordinated the K-12 Outreach Program (2018-2022) and the Americas Dialogue on Education Policy (2019-2023). Romina has written reports for international NGOs and organizations, and published scholarly work within and outside Latin America. Alongside academia and education, Romina has worked in diplomacy; she is also a polyglot and active language professional.

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:

- Alexandra De Camps** (SIPA, Public Policy and Administration)
- Ann Wang** (School of the Arts, Film & Media Studies)
- Bahia Gatti** (SIPA, International Affairs)
- Inara Bezerra** (Teachers College)
- Jonathan Pollak** (Columbia College, Political Science)
- Lloxcí Lopez** (Columbia College, Political Science)
- Mila Lin Tabach** (Barnard College, Computer Science)
- Junny Hernandez** (Columbia College, Economics)
- Sofia Covarrubias** (Barnard College, Economics / Political Science)

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 the Caribbean region.



ALEXANDER ALBERRO

is a Professor of Art History at Barnard College. His areas of specialization are modern and contemporary European, U.S., and Latin American art, as well as the history of photography. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including fellowships from the Howard Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. His recent lecture courses include "Histories of Photography"; "Early Modernism and the Crisis of Representation"; "In and Around Abstract Expressionism"; and "Directions in Contemporary Art." Recent seminars include "Contemporary Photography and Camera Work"; "Spectatorship, Participation and Interaction in Contemporary Art"; "Contemporary Art and the Global Turn"; and "Abstract Art and its Legacies in Latin America."



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.



DANIEL FRIEDRICH

is an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Director of the Doctoral Program in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University. His first book, *Democratic Education as a Curricular Problem*, was published by Routledge in 2014, and his co-edited volume, *Resonances of El Chavo del Ocho in Latin American Childhood, Schooling, and Society* was published by Bloomsbury Academic in English (2017) and by CLACSO in Spanish (2020). Prof. Friedrich is the co-founder of the Post- Foundational Approaches to Comparative and International Education Special Interest Group at the Comparative and International Education Society, and one of the co-editors of the series *New Directions in Comparative and International Education for Bloomsbury Academic*.



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.



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.



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 on 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's work has been published in journals such as *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, *Journal for Planning Education and Research*, and *Journal of Urban Affairs*. He received his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the Department of Urban Planning.



JORGE GUZMÁN

Dr. Jorge Guzman is an associate professor at the Management Division in Columbia Business School. Jorge received his PhD from the Sloan School of Management at MIT, and was previously a postdoc at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and a lecturer at MIT Sloan. His research focuses on entrepreneurship policy, regional entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurial strategy. He was previously involved in the Boston startup ecosystem, and has been an advisor to numerous startups on varied topics, and to regional and national policy agencies on the design of entrepreneurship ecosystems.



MAJA HORN

is an associate professor at Barnard College in Spanish and Latin American Cultures. She received her B.A. in Latin American Literature from Smith College in 1998, an M.A. in Performance Studies from NYU in 2002, and her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literature from Cornell University in 2005. Before joining the Barnard faculty in 2006, she was a research associate at FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where she developed and taught a performance studies concentration. Professor Horn specializes in contemporary Caribbean cultures with a focus on literature, visual and performance art, and political culture. She published the book

Masculinity after Trujillo: The Politics of Gender in Dominican Literature (University Press of Florida, 2014), and is currently completing a second book on queer *Dominican literature, visual and performance arts*. She also has published widely on *Latin American and Caribbean arts* for various art magazines in the U.S. and in the Dominican Republic.



MANUELA ORJUELA

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 Pediatria at the Instituto Mexicano de Seguro

Social (IMSS), the Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica (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.



MAURICIO CÁRDENAS

is Professor of Professional Practice in Global Leadership at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and Director of the MPA in Global Leadership. He is also Global Senior Research Fellow at Columbia's Center on Global Energy Policy where he conducts research on energy and climate policy. During the administration of Juan Manuel Santos, Dr. Cárdenas was Colombia's energy minister from 2011-2012 and finance minister from 2012-2018. He was chosen by Euromoney as finance minister of the year in 2015. He served in three other cabinet positions in previous governments (Economic Development, Transport, and Planning). He has been twice executive director of Fedesarrollo,

Colombia's leading policy research center, and Senior Fellow and Director of the Latin America Initiative at the Brookings Institution. He is also a Distinguished Fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington D.C. He was a member of the WHO Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (2020-2021), co-chair of the Taskforce on Carbon Pricing and Net Zero (2021), and Chair of the 'Doing Business' External Review Panel (2021). He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a former president of the Board of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank (2016) and of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). He regularly writes op-eds in *El Tiempo*, *Project Syndicate*, and *Americas Quarterly*.



ILAS CENTER AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

LCBS LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies (LCBS) is led by a faculty director and a Faculty Advisory Board of Faculty representing a diversity of disciplines, departments, and schools.

PAULO BLIKSTEIN

DIRECTOR OF LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES



Paulo is an associate professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he directs the Transformative Learning Technologies Lab. 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.

LCBS FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

PAULO BLIKSTEIN	Associate Professor of Communications, Media and Learning Technologies Design	Teachers College
AMY CHAZKEL	Bernard Hirschhorn Associate Professor of Urban Studies	History
GUSTAVO AZENHA	Executive Director of ILAS, and Lecturer in Anthropology	ILAS
SIDNEY NAKAHODO	Lecturer in International and Public Affairs	School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)
SILVIA MARTINS	Associate Professor / Epidemiology Director, Substance Use Epidemiology Unit	Mailman School of Public Health
TOM TREBAT	Director Global Center - Rio de Janeiro	Global Centers

CEMECA LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

The Center for Mexico and Central America (CeMeCa) is led by a faculty director and a Faculty Advisory Board of six Faculty members representing a diversity of disciplines, departments, and schools.

NARA MILANICH



DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA; PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Nara joined the faculty of Barnard in 2004. 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).

CEMECA FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

REGINA CORTINA	Professor of Education, International and Comparative Education	Teachers College
CLAUDIO LOMNITZ	Professor of Anthropology	Anthropology
EDUARDO MONCADA	Associate Professor of Political Science	Political Science
MAE NGAI	Professor of Asian American Studies and History	History
MANUELA ORJUELA	Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Pediatrics (in the HICCC)	Epidemiology
PABLO PICCATO	Professor of History	History

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

ARGENTINE STUDIES PROGRAM

MARIA VICTORIA MURILLO



is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and the School of International and Public Affairs. Professor Murillo's research on distributive politics in Latin America has covered labor politics and labor regulations, public utility reform, education reform, and economic policy more generally. Her work on political parties analyzes both their coalitional and policy implications as well as their linkages with voters in new democracies. Her empirical work is based on a variety of methods ranging from quantitative analysis of datasets built for all Latin American countries to qualitative field work in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela and survey and experiments in Argentina and Chile. Murillo received her B.A. from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard

University. Murillo has taught at Yale University, was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University, a Fulbright scholar, and a Russell Sage Visiting Fellow.

GREATER CARIBBEAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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**.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

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 inclusive of their cultures and languages, and improve their education outcomes. Professor Cortina's other areas of expertise are gender and education, the education and employment of teachers, public policy and education, and the schooling

of Latinx students in the United States. She has 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, and a bachelor's degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.

ILAS COMMITTEES

FACULTY GRANTS COMMITTEE

- **Susana Adamo** (Research Scientist, CIESIN/Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia Climate School)
- **Gustavo Azenha** (Executive Director, ILAS)
- **Claudio Lomnitz** (Professor, Department of Anthropology)
- **Vicky Murillo** (Professor, Department of Political Science and SIPA)
- **Tamara Walker** (Associate Professor, Barnard College)

STUDENT GRANTS COMMITTEE

- **Gustavo Azenha** (Executive Director, ILAS)
- **Jose Antonio Castellanos** (Senior Lecturer in Portuguese, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures)
- **Denise Milstein** (Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology)
- **Vicky Murillo** (Professor, Department of Political Science and SIPA)

MA PROGRAM ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

- **Gustavo Azenha** (Executive Director, ILAS)
- **Eduardo Moncada** (Associate Professor of Political Science, Barnard College)
- **Vicky Murillo** (Professor, Department of Political Science and SIPA)
- **Caterina Pizzigoni** (Associate Professor, Department of History)

FOREIGN AREA AND LANGUAGE STUDIES (FLAS) FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

- **Gustavo Azenha** (Executive Director, ILAS)
- **Marcelo Medeiros** (Senior Research Scholar, SIPA)
- **Vicky Murillo** (Professor, Department of Political Science and SIPA)
- **Joao Nemi Neto** (Senior Lecturer in Portuguese, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures)



FACULTY SUPPORT

FACULTY SUPPORT

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

With partial financial support from the Provost's Office, ILAS awards 5 to 15 faculty grants every year through a competitive process to support research, conferences, workshops, working groups, and curriculum development. Below are the names of projects and recipients of our faculty grants competition for the 2024-2025 academic year, as well as grants selected for support in the 2025-2026 academic year.

FACULTY GRANTS PROJECTS SELECTED FOR SUPPORT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

<i>TITLE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>AFFILIATION</i>
LANGUAGE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CITIZENSHIP: TEACHING PORTUGUESE TO THE WARAO PEOPLE IN BRAZIL	<i>ANA PAULA HUBACK</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
BOTANICAL REBELLIONS: PLANT HISTORIES OF WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE LABOR	<i>ANA PAULINA LEE</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
STATES OF EMERGENCY AND TRANSITION: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON FORTY YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN BRAZIL	<i>AMY CHAZKEL</i>	History, Columbia University
PROMOTING DIALOGUES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE	<i>EZRA SUSSER</i>	Mailman School of Public Health
CREATIVE RESISTANCES: ARTS AND ACTIVISMS IN THE AMERICAS	<i>JACQUELINE GARCIA SUAREZ/ MARÍA JOSÉ CONTRERAS LORENZINI</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
CINE-MEMORIA FOR ESTRANGED TIMES: THE PAST IN THE PRESENT	<i>JANE GAINES</i>	School of the Arts
THE ART OF ILLUSTRATION: DOCUMENTING THE MURAL PAINTINGS OF PAÑAMARCA, PERU	<i>LISA TREVER</i>	Art History and Archaeology
MULTILITERACIES IN THE LATINO DIASPORA OF NYC	<i>LORENA GARCÍA BARROSO</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
POLITICAL METAPHORS BRAZILIANS THINK WITH	<i>PAULO BLIKSTEIN</i>	Teachers College
WOMEN LEADERS IN LATIN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE CASES OF CHILE, COLOMBIA, AND MEXICO	<i>REGINA CORTINA</i>	Teachers College
BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN THE OF USE OF EARTH OBSERVATIONS (EO) FOR WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA: A VIRTUAL SCOPING SEMINAR	<i>SUSANA ADAMO</i>	CIESIN/Columbia Climate School



Conservator César Alfredo Velásquez and archaeologist-painter Pedro Neciosup work on the painted throne within the Hall of the Moche Imaginary, Pañamarca, Peru. Photograph by Lisa Trever



Lisa Trever stands, with research assistants Joseph Senchyshyn and Riley Tavares, behind the painted throne within the Hall of the Moche Imaginary, Pañamarca, Peru. Photograph by José Antonio Ochatoma Cabrera



Larissa Rosa Correia, Jacob Blanc, Claudio Lomnitz and Melissa Teixeira at the conference Law in Times of Emergency and Transition: Legal Perspectives on 40 Years of Democracy in Brazil, February 2025

FACULTY GRANTS PROJECTS SELECTED FOR SUPPORT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

<i>TITLE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>AFFILIATION</i>
FOURTH CONFERENCE OF PORTUGUESE AS A WORLD LANGUAGE	<i>ANA PAULA HUBACK</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
A THRIVING ECONOMY AMIDST ARMED VIOLENCE: THE INTERWEAVING OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL SPHERES IN MEXICO	<i>CLAUDIO LOMNITZ</i>	Anthropology
TRANSNATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL TELEVISION: THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON EUROPEAN SCREENS	<i>ELIZABETH RAMIREZ SOTO</i>	School of the Arts
COLLABORATIVE STUDENT RESEARCH AT PAÑAMARCA: ART, ARCHAEOLOGY, ILLUSTRATION, AND COMMUNITY	<i>LISA TREVER</i>	Art History and Archaeology
ESTIMATING HEAT AND HUMIDITY EXPOSURE AMONG OVERLAND MIGRANTS	<i>MANUELA ORJUELA</i>	Mailman School of Public Health
ENVIRONMENT, CRAFT, LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE AMERICAS	<i>PAMELA SMITH</i>	Center for Science and Society and History Department



VISITING PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

VISITING PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

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 2024-2025 academic year, ILAS hosted 17 visiting scholars, hailing from Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, France, and Scotland.

ILAS has an open call for Visiting Scholars who have secured outside funding, as well as several funded programs, made possible this year through support from the Tinker Foundation and the Foundation for Argentine Development (Fundar). Funded initiatives for visiting professors and scholars include the programs and visitors described below.

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 almost 100 Tinker Professors since the creation of the program, including faculty from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and other countries. Past recipients of the Tinker Professorship include Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), Anibal Quijano (Peru), Andres Velasco (Chile), Lilia Moritz Schwarcz (Brazil), and Edmar Bacha (Brazil). For the 2024-2025 academic year, ILAS hosted two Tinker Professors: Maria Alejandra Velez from Colombia and Mariana Cavalcanti from Brazil.

MARÍA ALEJANDRA VÉLEZ



is a full professor at the Faculty of Economics, Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, and the Director of the Center for Studies on Security and Drugs (CESED) at the same University. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics of Natural Resources from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is an economist from Universidad de los Andes. She served as a postdoctoral Research Scientist (2006-2008) at the Center for Research on Environmental Decision, Columbia University, New York City, and as the Mellon Visiting Professor at Duke Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Duke University, in 2013. Her research focuses on governance and institutional design for natural resource management in rural communities of the Global South, as well as on the interaction between drug and environmental policy. Currently, she is studying the effect of payment

for environmental services on conservation outcomes, the impacts of collective property rights regimes on institutional changes, landscapes, and the welfare of Afro-Colombian communities on the Pacific Coast, and the strategies for formalizing gold mining. Recently, she has focused on the effects of illicit economies and drug policies on natural resources, the models for cannabis regulation in Colombia, and the impact of drug policies on communities' well-being and security outcomes.

MARIANA CAVALCANTI



is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Social and Political Studies of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (IESP/UERJ). She received her Ph.D. in Social/Cultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2007 and was Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences and History of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (CPDOC/FGV) from 2008 to 2015. In 2020-21, she was Peggy Rockefeller Visiting Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. Cavalcanti has published extensively on housing, urbanism, infrastructure, and public policy. She co-edited *Occupy All Streets: Olympic Urbanism and Contested Futures in Rio de Janeiro* and *O Mundo Popular: trabalho e condições de vida*. She co-directed the documentary *Favela Fabril (2012, 49')* and co-developed the plot and screenplay of the documentary *A Conquista do*

Oeste (30', 2023). She was co-founder and board member (2013-17) of Casa Fluminense, a civil society association that aims to deepen democracy and reduce inequalities in the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro. She is co-coordinator of the research collectives Grupo CASA: estudos sociais sobre moradia e cidade and ResidualLab: laboratório de estudos sociais dos resíduos. Her current research focuses on urban waters, exploring how climate change is transforming the way we read, write, tell, and teach urban histories.

INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN ARGENTINA

DON'T WASTE THE OPPORTUNITY: POLICY GUIDELINES TO STRENGTHEN ARGENTINA'S BIOGAS INDUSTRY

FEDERICO ACCURSI
UNIVERSIDAD AUSTRAL
ARGENTINE VISITING FELLOW, ILAS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

RETHINKING INDUSTRIAL POLICIES FOR ARGENTINA: FOSTERING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PABLO SANGUINETTI
TORCUATO DI TELLA UNIVERSITY
ARGENTINE VISITING FELLOW, ILAS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

MODERATOR
MARTÍN GUZMÁN
PROFESSOR OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SPA, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

DISCUSSANT
NICOLAS LIPPOLIS
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL

RSVP Here

Coffee will be served

Wednesday, March 26th
4:10PM – 5:30PM
Room 802 IAB
420 W 118th St

THE ARGENTINE STUDIES VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM,

established in 2020, provides unique funded opportunities for scholars and scientists in Argentina interested in spending two months at Columbia University while engaging in public policy-related research, attending and contributing to public programming, interacting with faculty and students, and participating in courses. The Fellowship is supported by the Foundation for Argentinean Development (Fundar). Its purpose is to strengthen scholarly ties between Columbia and the academic community of Argentina while fostering research that can inform a broad policy conversation in Argentina and the region. During the 2024-2025 academic year, we hosted the following Fellows whose research focus on industrial policies: Pablo Sanguinetti (Torcuato Di Tella University) and Federico Accursi (Universidad Austral in Rosario). For more information on these Fellows and their research expertise, please see the Argentine Studies Program section of this report.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

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 and co-sponsors around 100 events a year on campus, including academic seminars and conferences, as well as talks from distinguished speakers, including current and former presidents, ministers, and other high-level speakers from the region.

ILAS also organizes cultural events focused on the arts, music, and film, as well as initiatives focused on journalism. ILAS collaborates with the journalism school, for example, on the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes, the oldest international awards in journalism which recognizes 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. ILAS has five main 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](#)
- [Argentine Studies Program](#)
- [K-12 Outreach Program](#)

COLLABORATIONS

ILAS has strong collaborations with various schools, departments, institutes, and centers on campus. For example, we work closely with the School for International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Teachers College, Barnard College, and the School of Journalism, 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. This year, there was a World Leaders Forum featuring the President of Chile, Gabriel Boric Font. 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 a conference on *The Interconnection of Latin American Policy Challenges*.

Among our collaborations are several workshops and seminar series that emphasize faculty and student collaborations. This includes continuing to provide support to the Political Economy of Latin America (PELA) 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.

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.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

ILAS also collaborates 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. This long-running working group is a partnership 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.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2024-25 academic year, ILAS and its affiliated Centers organized or co-sponsored over 50 events to promote sustained dialogue around key topics of faculty and student interest. Among the programming highlights this year are the following events:



THE INTERCONNECTION OF LATIN AMERICAN POLICY CHALLENGES: A one-day conference, co-organized by the Institute of Global Politics and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University, with support from IDEA International, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme. The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, and experts for three panel discussions on Latin America's key policy challenges. Participants focused on the intersection of economic growth, poverty reduction, climate action, democracy, and state capacity. Throughout the day, policies and strategies to overcome social fragmentation, democratic erosion, and environmental challenges were debated to generate actionable recommendations. The conference fostered interdisciplinary exchange and highlighted the importance of integrating theory with practical implementation approaches in the region.

LEMANN DIALOGUE 2025: An annual conference organized in collaboration between Columbia University, Harvard University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Stanford University to foster dialogue on public policy in Brazil among researchers and representatives of the public and third sectors. This year marks the ninth edition of the event, which was hosted at Columbia.





THE CHALLENGES OF MEXICO FACING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION:

A panel co-organized with the Institute of Global Politics (IGP), with experts discussing the challenges for President Sheinbaum during the second Trump administration. The discussion was moderated by ILAS's Director, Victoria Murillo, with the participation of Will Freeman (Council on Foreign Relations), Alberto Ramos (Goldman Sachs), and Viridiana Ríos (Milenio and El País).

TRUMP POLICIES TOWARD LATIN AMERICA:

A roundtable discussion regarding the effect of the second Trump administration's policies on Latin American countries, organized in collaboration with the SIPA Latin American Students Association (LASA), featuring Juan Cruz (Former Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, White House National Security Council); Shannon O'Neil (Senior Vice President, Director of Studies, and Maurice R. Greenberg Chair, Council of Foreign Relations), and Brian Winter (Vice President, Policy, AS/COA and Editor-in-Chief America's Quarterly).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CARIBBEAN:

A cross-disciplinary roundtable discussion led by ILAS's Greater Caribbean Program highlighting Columbia and Barnard faculty research, with faculty in LAIC, Architecture, English, and Ecology.

COCA-BASED LOCAL GROWTH AND ITS IMPACT IN COLOMBIA:

A talk by Maria Alejandra Velez, Visiting Tinker Professor, on her latest research on the economic and socio-environmental impacts of the recent coca cultivation boom in Colombia, examining how the illicit coca economy reshapes territorial dynamics and serves as a catalyst for economic and social transformations. ILAS's Director, Vicky Murillo, moderated the talk, which featured commentaries by Desmond Arias (CUNY) and Mauricio Cardenas (SIPA). The event was co-organized with the Center for Political Economy and Columbia Global.

TEN YEARS SINCE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE 43 AYOTZINAPA STUDENTS:

A discussion marking the tenth anniversary of the disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa students with Omar Gómez Trejo, the former special prosecutor who led the Ayotzinapa investigation. Appointed in 2019, Mr. Gómez Trejo and his team uncovered key revelations about the original case. His investigation led to the indictment of over 100 individuals, but political interference eventually prompted his resignation in 2022. Trejo discussed his experience investigating one of Mexico's most significant human rights cases, offering insights into the challenges of addressing impunity and corruption.

PHOTO: ATISBANDO EL PORVENIR (1958), BY HÉCTOR GARCÍA

Mobilities and the City / La ciudad y las movilidades

BILINGUAL EXHIBITION
EXPOSICIÓN BILINGÜE

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY
ON PUBLIC SPACE
FOTOGRAFÍA HISTÓRICA
SOBRE EL ESPACIO PÚBLICO

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
GRATUITA Y ABIERTA AL PÚBLICO

Curated by/Curador:
Andrei Guadarrama

On exhibit at the Institute of Latin American Studies
En sala en el Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos

Columbia University
IAB, 8th floor/8o piso
420 118W St., New York

GOBIERNO DE MÉXICO
MEMÓRICA
ARSA

THE Maria Moors Cabot PRIZES

Institute of Latin American Studies

Covering Organized Crime, Corruption, and Political Violence in Latin America

Honoring journalists for career excellence and coverage of the Western Hemisphere that furthers Inter-American understanding

Featuring 2024 Cabot Prize Winners:

Steven Dudley
InSight Crime

Carlos Ernesto Martínez
El Faro

Frances Robles
The New York Times

Moderated By:
Eduardo Moncada
Associate Professor of Political Science at Barnard

Tues., October 8, 12:30pm
International Affairs Building
Room 802 IAB

COVERING ORGANIZED CRIME, CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN LATAM:

A roundtable discussion co-organized with the Columbia School of Journalism, featuring 2024 Cabot Prize winners Steven Dudley (Insight Crime), Carlos Ernesto Martínez (El Faro) and Frances Robles (The New York Times), moderated by Eduardo Moncada (Political Science, Barnard College).

Women and Democracy in Latin America

SILVIA IOSPENNATO
MEMBER
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES,
ARGENTINA

NATALIA HERBST
DIRECTOR
LATIN AMERICA
STRATEGY
AND DEVELOPMENT,
APOLITICAL FOUNDATION

MODERATOR
VICKY MURILLO
IAS DIRECTOR,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

RSVP here



Tuesday, March 11th
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
ROOM 802 IAB
420 W 118th St

Food will be served

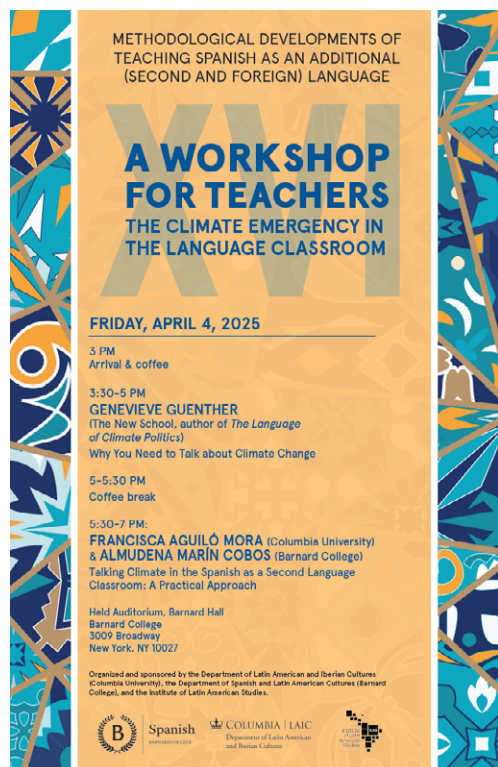
K-12 OUTREACH

Highlights of ILAS outreach efforts also include the ILAS K-12 Outreach Program. This 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 10 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 Public Schools 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 has been developing a new curriculum guide on Latin American Studies for high schools. We have also been developing a bilingual guide for educators to work with immigrant parents, *Bridging the Gap: A Guide for Parents and Teachers to Navigate Language, Culture, and Education Together*. 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).



LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

In addition to the K-12 initiatives, through our Indigenous and Diasporic Language Consortium (IDLC), a partnership between Columbia, the Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at New York University, and the CUNY 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 and Nahuatl). ILAS also provides support to workshops in Spanish and Portuguese language pedagogy in collaboration with faculty in the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures (LAIC).

COMMUNICATIONS AND ONLINE PRESENCE

ILAS's mailing list includes over 10,906 subscribers, an X account with over 8,269 followers, an Instagram account with over 3,810 followers, a YouTube channel with 1,610 subscribers, and a LinkedIn account with 1,829 followers. Our social media reach has continued to grow. This past year, our LinkedIn following increased 18.69%, and our Instagram following increased 8.09%. Since 2019, when we began tracking our communications, our reach has grown substantially. Our YouTube following increased 1180%, our Instagram following increased 810%, our mailing list subscriptions increased 638%, and our X following increased 278%.

ILAS social media serve as essential platforms for disseminating information on public programming and events, while also increasingly serving to spotlight the perspectives and research of faculty, students, and visiting scholars who are part of the ILAS community. Our social media features videos of faculty grant recipients, visiting scholars, student research grant recipients, ILAS MA and undergraduate program students, student group leaders, and ILAS student staff. ILAS has also engaged in collaborations on Instagram and other social media platforms with existing student group accounts or student-led social media. Some of those collaborations include the Paulo Freire Initiative and the Afro-Brazilian Alliance. We have also engaged in social media collaborations with the Columbia Global Centers in Santiago and Rio.

<i>PLATFORM</i>	<i>FOLLOWERS - 05/2019</i>	<i>% GROWTH 2019-05/2025</i>
<i>DIGEST MAILING LIST</i>	10,906	638%
<i>X</i>	8,269	278%
<i>INSTAGRAM</i>	3,810	810%
<i>FACEBOOK LIKES</i>	6,200	49%
<i>FACEBOOK FOLLOWS</i>	7,100	61%
<i>LINKEDIN</i>	1,829	N/A
<i>YOUTUBE</i>	1,610	1,180%



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT OVERVIEW

ILAS serves as a vital resource to students throughout the university. ILAS offers a Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (MARSLAC), an undergraduate major and concentration in Latin American Studies, a Specialization in Latin American Studies for Masters students in International and Public Affairs, and a Certificate in Latin American Studies for Masters and Ph.D. students, providing 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.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

ILAS offers an undergraduate major and concentration, and introduced a new minor this year. The Major in Regional Studies in Latin America 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 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.

This past year, ILAS had 23 students in its undergraduate program. We have had 95 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. The minor in LCRS began in the fall of 2024, and the program has provided regional grounding for students across various disciplines, as well as an understanding of social trends in the region. We have also created a 4+1 option for Columbia and Barnard undergraduate students, allowing students to complete graduate-level courses that count toward an MA through ILAS.

MA PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Regional Studies - Latin America and the Caribbean (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: ILAS has offered 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 has been 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. ILAS has 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 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.

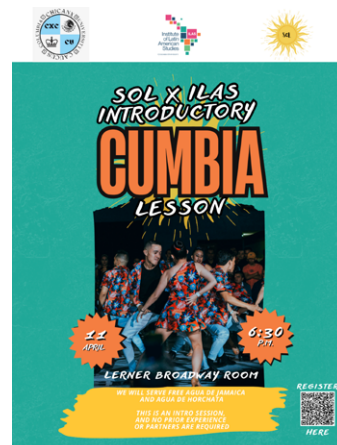
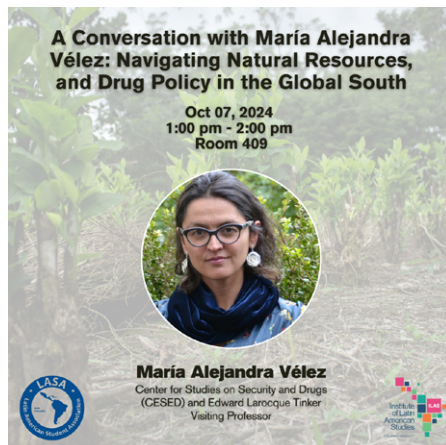
STUDENT GROUP COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT

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 37 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
- Brazil Club at Columbia Business School
- Brazil Talk
- Brazilian Society
- Caribbean Students Association (CSA)
- Casa Latina
- Chicaxx 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
- 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.
- Co-organizing with SOL and the Chicaxx Caucus, a beginner-friendly cumbia lesson and dancing.
- Co-organizing a roundtable discussion with LASA on Trump Policies Toward Latin America,
- Supporting the launch of Alianza's fourth annual zine, Alianzine.

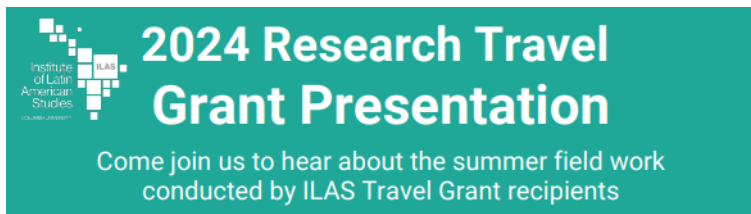




STUDENT GRANTS

With partial support from the Tinker Foundation, ILAS typically supports over 10-20 student pre-dissertation research grants. ILAS selected eight pre-dissertation research grants for support during the 2024-2025 academic year. ILAS has also selected 13 student research proposals for support for the 2025-2026 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. Research projects selected for support during the 2023-2024 academic year, and for the upcoming academic year are below:



2024 Research Travel Grant Presentation
Come join us to hear about the summer field work conducted by ILAS Travel Grant recipients



THOMAS MAGGIOLA
History
The Politics of Guatemalan Exile in Mexico, 1980-2002



PAULINA I. GÓMEZ
Anthropology
Land Access and the "Problem" of Indigeneity in Puerto Rico




SARA PAN-ALGARRA
International & Comparative Education (Teachers College)
Climate Mobility, Disasters, & Girls' Education in Honduras



ANA ZUNIGA LORETO
History
Crafting Legitimacy: Nahua Legal Technologies and the Shaping of Colonial Power in New Spain, Mexico



ALYSSA BROWN
Ecology Evolution and Environmental Biology
Investigating Wood Traits to Assess Forest Resilience to Hurricanes in Puerto Rico



Friday, October 25th
1:00 PM

Room 802 International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street, New York, NY
10027

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

SELECTED FOR SUPPORT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

PROJECT TITLE	STUDENT NAME	PROGRAM
INVESTIGATING RESISTANCE LOSS DURING HURRICANE MARIA	ALYSSA BROWN	Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
CHASING NAHUA IDOLATERS: SORCERIES, SPELLS, AND INCANTATIONS, OR HOW TO READ AGAINST THE GRAIN IDOLATRY RECORDS FROM NEW SPAIN ARCHIVES	ANA LAURA ZUNIGA LORETO	History
TOURISM TERRITORIALIZATION AS ARCHIVE: TOWARD AN ARCHITECTURE OF DEVELOPMENT AND DISPOSSESSION	ELIZABETH ALVAREZ	Urban Planning
A VOTING MOB OF WOMEN: THE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II FRENCH GUIANA AND DEPARTMENTALIZATION	HAZEL RICHARDS	History
THE AFRO-BRAZILIAN TRANSNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN FRENCH COLONIAL DAHOMEY (1894-1960): INSIGHTS FROM THE PIERRE VERGER'S ARCHIVES	HUGO LOGEZ	History
THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL HORIZONS OF GENTE DE COLOR IN THE EARLY CUBAN REPUBLIC	LEVY BATEL	History
CLIMATE MOBILITY AND GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN HONDURAS	SARA PAN ALGARRA	International and Comparative Education
ASYLUM IN THE GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT: CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES IN MEXICO, 1979-2000	THOMAS MAGGIOLA	History

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT



Sara Pan-Algarra (Teachers College) conducting field research for her project on "Climate Mobility and Girls' Access to Education in Honduras".



Workshops with Cabarete Sostenible and the Ministry of the Environment in Panama as part of Elizabeth Alvarez's (Urban Planning) project on "Tourism Territorialization as Archive: Toward an Architecture of Development and Dispossession".

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	<i>ANA LUIZA ABREU-CLAUDIO</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
BUILDING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE: LESSONS FROM TRADE SHOCKS AND GREEN FINANCING AS A PATHWAY	<i>ANDREA MURCIA MORALES</i>	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	<i>BRIANA PEREZ REATEGUI</i>	MARSLAC
DIGITAL PAYMENTS AND INFORMAL FIRMS IN PERU	<i>DAFNE MURILLO</i>	Economics
CARING IN PRECARIY (EXCLUSION): VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND THE MAKING OF CARE INFRASTRUCTURES IN LIMA, PERU.	<i>DANIELA PERLECHE UGAS</i>	Urban Planning
RECALCITRANT AND SUBMERGED: CLAIMS TO SOVEREIGNTY AND AQUEOUS SPACE IN THE PUERTO RICAN DEEP SEA	<i>ELENA VANASSE TORRES</i>	Anthropology
UNFAMILIAR COMMUNITIES: FUTURITY AND DESIRE UNDER NEOLIBERALISM IN ARGENTINA AND SPAIN (1985-2010)	<i>FLOR BARCELO</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
FRANCE'S LAST COLONY: THE TERRITORY OF ININI'S INCORPORATION INTO THE FRENCH STATE	<i>HAZEL RICHARDS</i>	History
THE FABRIC OF STRUGGLE: ARPILLERAS AS A VOICE OF RESISTANCE IN BRAZIL AND CHILE	<i>ISABELLA PEREIRA NIKEL</i>	Latin American and Iberian Cultures
DECENTRALIZATION AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE: CHALLENGES AND APPROPRIATIONS OF PEACE PEDAGOGIES IN COLOMBIAN SCHOOLS	<i>LEONARDO AREVALO-ROJAS</i>	International and Transcultural Studies
HOW DO THE CATEGORICAL DISTINCTIONS OF VIOLENCE AS ORGANIZED CRIME OR ARMED CONFLICT IMPACT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE	<i>MARIA PAULA SALAZAR VALIENTE</i>	Human Rights Institute
PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN RISK: DISASTERS AS A MODE OF URBANIZATION	<i>MAURICIO RADA-ORELLANA</i>	Urban Planning
NAVIGATING ASYLUM: POLITICS, INDIGENEITY, AND GUATEMALAN REFUGEES IN MEXICO, 1979-2002	<i>THOMAS MAGGIOLA</i>	History



ILAS CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

ILAS CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

OVERVIEW

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.

On campus, interest in Brazil and Brazilian presence is significant and has grown substantially in recent years. There are approximately 200 Brazilian students at Columbia, as well as 100 Brazilian researchers and visiting scholars. These figures represent a doubling of the population of Brazilians on campus since 2010. Brazilian student enrollments at Columbia have been highest in Business, Professional Studies, International & Public Affairs, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Columbia College, Law, and Engineering, but include a wider range of programs, including Journalism, Public Health, Arts, Architecture, and Social Work. The number of students, faculty, and researchers on campus who are substantively engaged with Brazil is much broader, including over 30 faculty members with active teaching and research interests in Brazil.

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.

In its efforts to expand and strengthen connections with its diverse constituencies in the US and abroad, the LCBS has improved its digital infrastructure over the past year by initiating a full-fledged website redesign and creating a new set of social media accounts for the Center.

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.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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.



VISITING SCHOLARS

Through its Visiting Scholars program, the LCBS offers Brazilian academic and policy experts the opportunity to reside on the Columbia campus and interact with faculty members who have expertise in Brazil, Latin America, and other relevant topics. The LCBS offers a platform for emerging young Brazilian scholars to spend up to a year at Columbia, conducting their research. The LCBS typically hosts 5-15 visiting scholars and professors every year. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the LCBS hosted six visiting scholars.

PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

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.

We collaborate 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. Our 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 the 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 São Paulo Mayor and current Minister of Economy, 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.

Our public programming includes a bi-monthly seminar on Brazil's Political, Social, and Economic Development, featuring leading experts discussing various topics related to Brazilian politics, economics, public policy, and culture. Among the speakers this year were Ana

Corbacho (IMF), Jennifer Chang (Moody's Analytics), Judith Morrison (IDB), Otaviano Canuto (Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South and Former Vice President, World Bank), and Marcelo Medeiros (Senior Research Scholar, SIPA).

Major Events and Academic Engagement

Over the past year, the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies hosted and co-organized a diverse range of events that brought together scholars, students, policymakers, and practitioners to advance dialogue on Brazil's social, cultural, and economic challenges and opportunities. Highlights included *Amazon Dystopia: Dialogue with Documentary Photographer Lalo Almeida*, which explored the environmental, political, and social crises in the Amazon, and the *BRASA Summit 2025 at Columbia University*, a two-day conference organized by the Brazilian Student Association (BRASA) that convened Brazilian students, companies, and institutions for presentations, panels, and networking focused on national challenges, career development, and community building.

Marking the *II Brazilian Black Consciousness Day Abroad*, the Center partnered on *Energy Transition and Artificial Intelligence: Solutions for a Sustainable World* — organized with the Consulate General of Brazil in NY, AMCHAM, BrazilCham, and FGV School of Economics — to discuss renewable energy, sustainable technology, and opportunities for Brazil-U.S. collaboration.

In December 2024, with support from the Lemann Center, SIPA master's students Bruna Gimba and Suane Larissa participated in the *29^a Cumbre de las Mercociudades* in Esteban Echeverría, Argentina. Bruna presented results from the *Good Practices Call for Local Gender Policies*, a project coordinated during her Lemann Summer Grant-funded internship. Suane joined a panel on *Intersectionality in the Care Economy*, addressing links to gender, race, and class in Latin America. Together, they facilitated a workshop to advance a *Latin American Gender Protocol* and participated in the Meeting of the Thematic Unit on Gender and Municipality, focusing on protocols and commitments to strengthen gender equity across member cities.

During the *69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* in March, Brazilian master's students from SIPA and Brazil Talk organized two discussions on gender policy challenges and perspectives in Brazil and globally. *Local Gender Policies in Brazil* featured Lídia Moura, Thamyris Elpidio, and Márcia Ribeiro, addressing local-level public policy implementation, achievements, and ongoing obstacles. *Challenges in the Global Gender Agenda: Perspectives from Brazilian Foreign Policy* brought

Ambassador Vanessa Dolce Faria to discuss Brazil's role in international gender policy and Itamaraty's efforts to advance equity in diplomacy.

In April, Columbia University hosted *Lemann Dialogues 2025*, the annual conference organized by Brazilian studies centers at Columbia, Harvard, Illinois (Urbana-Champaign,) and Stanford. The event brought together researchers, public sector representatives, and third-sector leaders to discuss Brazil's future policy challenges and opportunities. Panels featuring scholars and practitioners, such as Thiago Amparo, Cesar Zucco, Tatiana Schor, Cristiana Mori, Guga Chacra, and faculty

from partner universities, addressed climate, health, education, and democracy in Latin America. Student groups — including the Paulo Freire Initiative, Brazil Talk, AFRA, Brazilian Society, Brazil Club at CBS, and CLS Brazil — presented projects from the past year.

As part of the Paulo Freire Initiative, LCBS hosted six seminars, including Sheila Perina's *Reading the "Palavra-Mundo": A Freirean Approach to "Pretuguês" and Conversation Circles: The Experience with Paulo Freire's Students in Producing the Documentary "40 Hours in Memory"*, in Angicos, RN, as well as a *Theatre of the Oppressed* workshop.

The Center also facilitated dialogues with public leaders, including a *meeting with Senator Nelson Trad and student leaders* (as well as a *talk*), a *talk and meeting between AFRA and Minister Anielle Franco ("ODS 18: A Path for Development with a Focus on Racial Equality.)* In addition, the Lemann Center supported AFRA's *graduation dinner*, which brought together students and their families, reinforcing its commitment to celebrating academic achievements and community building.

The year concluded with *Educational Innovation in Rio de Janeiro: From Banning Cell Phones to Creating Rio's Technological Schools*, examining recent policy shifts and innovations in public education.



Digital Strategy and Social Media – results and strategies from LCBS Instagram 24/25

The Lemann Center’s social media project on Instagram began on November 18th, 2024. Its main objectives are to increase awareness and visibility of the Lemann Center’s initiatives, research, and events — particularly among Brazilian educators, students, and the academic community; foster meaningful discussions by sharing high-quality content that connects research with real-world issues in Brazil; engage the Brazilian academic and educational community through interactive posts, collaborations, and knowledge-sharing opportunities; promote events and research conducted by students, faculty, and guest scholars; strengthen ties with the Brazilian diaspora in New York; and ensure a strong and consistent digital presence through a cohesive editorial calendar, clear messaging, and engaging storytelling strategies.

Between November 2024 and July 2025, the profile reached a total of 3,804,581 views. With 69 feed posts, the account grew to 3,463 followers and recorded 60,469 profile visits, generating 173,523 interactions — including 168,375 likes and 1,091 shares. The audience is concentrated in São Paulo (698 followers), followed by Rio de Janeiro (329), Belo Horizonte (94), Fortaleza (81), Brasília (80), and Recife (79).

In the past year, strategies focused on adjusting content formats, audience targeting, and campaign management. The content featured members of the Lemann Center community — including students, alumni, faculty, researchers, and former visiting scholars — as well as student groups such as the Paulo Freire Initiative, AFRA, Brazil Club, and LASA. This approach highlighted their work, strengthened connections across the community, and informed audiences about opportunities available to students at Columbia.

In addition to Instagram, the Lemann Center maintained an active presence on X (formerly Twitter), BlueSky, Threads, and LinkedIn, expanding its ability to reach diverse audiences. The year also marked the creation of a Lemann Center - Columbia image bank, a curated collection of photographs to be used in social media content and other outreach materials, supporting consistent visual identity and communication efforts.

EM FOCO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

O que você mudaria na sua atuação após um período de reflexão profunda?

Refletir também é uma forma de agir

COM ILONA SZABÓ

Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies

BRASIL EM COLUMBIA COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Estudante brasileiro recebeu prêmio de Melhor Vídeo no SIPA Oscars por documentário sobre fazenda de café em Ruanda

Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies

ACONTECE NO LEMANN CENTER COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Alunos da AFRA celebraram formatura junto de seus familiares

AFRA

Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies

Paulo Freire Initiative – events, seminars, workshops, and social media impact



Between August 2024 and July 2025, the initiative significantly expanded its reach and diversified its activities, deepening dialogue on Brazilian education and

Paulo Freire's legacy. The public programming included six seminars and one workshop, connecting scholars, educators, artists, and students from Brazil and the US in discussions and practical experiences on critical pedagogy.

- *The Reading of the World-Word: A Freirean Approach to "Pretoguês" in Schools* – Sheila Perina (Aug 7, 2024)
- *Conversation Circle: Documentary 40 horas na memória and Reflections on Paulo Freire's Students in Angicos, RN* – Passos Jr. (Aug 21, 2024)
- *Different Contexts and Reflections on Youth and Adult Education and Paulo Freire* – Gasse Stephanie, Josely Alano, Maria Carolina de Azevedo (Dec 11, 2024)
- *Paulo Freire as an Inspiration for Children's Literature* – Glau Ramires e Fabiano dos Santos (Apr 10, 2025)
- *Dialogues: Paulo Freire and the Reggio Emilia Approach – For a Pedagogy of Youth: Reflections on Methodologies for Working with Young People* – Symaira Nonato (Jun 5, 2025)
- *Workshop – Theatre of the Oppressed: A Transformative Experience* – Geo Britto and Amanda Nonato (Sept 6–7, 2024)

The Paulo Freire Initiative's social media project aims to deliver high-quality content that fosters meaningful discussions with Brazilian teachers and educators. It seeks to bridge academic knowledge and classroom practices, connecting the Initiative's community with educators in Brazil. The project also publicizes events organized by the Initiative, promotes and amplifies research conducted by students, and positions the platform as a hub for exchanging ideas, insights, and innovative educational practices. Over the past year, *the profile has expanded from 2,572 to 32,411 followers — a nearly 30,000 increase — and has achieved an average monthly reach of over 170,000 accounts. Views peaked at 617,146 in April 2025.* A total of 240 posts were published during the year, including collaborations with educators, researchers, and institutions, with a strong emphasis on critical, authorial content.

Additional achievements this year included the official launch of the *Paulo Freire Initiative website* (freireinitiative.org), featuring an [interactive mind map](#) that organizes over 380 Instagram posts into interconnected thematic clusters — a tool designed to facilitate deeper exploration of educational topics and extend the Initiative's impact beyond social media. The Initiative also received two children's books by Glau Ramires, illustrated by Fabiano dos Santos — *O Menino Centenário: A vida do educador Paulo Freire* and *O Menino Viajador: Um tributo a Paulo Freire* — which have been added to its collection.

AFRA

The Afro-Brazilian Alliance: The LCBS supported and incentivized a new student-led initiative, the Afro-Brazilian Alliance at Columbia University (AFRA). The Alliance is a community dedicated to celebrating, promoting, and preserving Afro-Brazilian culture — a group of students, faculty, researchers, and supporters committed to social justice and equity.

Among AFRA's initiatives was the 1st Brazilian Black Consciousness Abroad Conference. The conference was organized by Kilombas, a collective of Afro-Brazilian women in the U.S, and supported by AFRA, with sponsorship from the LCBS and the Brazilian Consulate in New York. Singer-songwriter Ludji Luna delivered the closing presentation at the event.

AFRA has also organized the Afro-Brazilian Dialogues, a platform that brings together Afro-Brazilian leaders to share their experiences and build relationships. We were honored to have Monique Evelle as our distinguished speaker for our first session.

In partnership with the Columbia Global Center |Rio de Janeiro, the Afro-Brazilian Alliance hosted a group of distinguished black leaders from the Columbia Women's Leadership Network. Nineteen Brazilians attended the event, which received support from the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies and ILAS.

STUDENT SUPPORT

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.

ARTICULATION WITH STUDENT GROUPS

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), a group created in 2024 that brings together various established student group organizations, as well as connecting with faculty, scholars, and alumni in the New York City Area. The LCBS intensified its efforts to integrate its events and activities with the several student groups at Columbia. This past year, we initiated several joint projects with these groups and began promoting more events in collaboration with them.





CENTER FOR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

OVERVIEW

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) (<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.


REGIONAL EXPERT PAPER SERIES

An ongoing major 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) (<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. This academic year we published the 12th paper in the series: [Intentional Injustice: Destroying the Rule of Law in El Salvador](#)



Ten Years since the Disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa Students


Presentation and discussion with



OMAR GÓMEZ TREJO
FORMER SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE AYOTZINAPA CASE / VISITING SCHOLAR AT HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, UC BERKELEY LAW

This event was made possible by the generous support of the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy

EVERARDO RIQUEZ BELL JONAS TRUJILLO

RSVP here 

Wednesday, October 30th
4:10 PM - 6:00 PM
ROOM 802 IAB
420 W 118th St

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

CeMeCA also sponsored five [events, workshops, and seminars](https://ilas.columbia.edu/content/cemecas-public-programming) (<https://ilas.columbia.edu/content/cemecas-public-programming>) this past year in partnership with faculty, visiting scholars, and students. The Center's public programming encompasses a diverse range of topics, featuring experts from various disciplinary and professional backgrounds. Programming highlights from this year have included:

- *Mexico's Judicial Reform*
- *Mexico's Resilient Journalists* book presentation
- *Ten Years Since the Disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa Students*
- *Justice Across Borders: Migrants, Workers, and Human Rights*
- *The Challenges of Mexico Facing the Trump Administration*

The poster features logos for the Center for Mexico and Central America, the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), and the Columbia University Social Study of Disappearance Lab (SSDL). The main title is "Mexico's Judicial Reform" in a large, bold font. Below it, it says "Presentation and discussion with" followed by a circular portrait of José Ramón Cossío. To the right of the portrait, his name and title are listed: "JOSÉ RAMÓN COSSÍO, RETIRED JUSTICE OF MEXICO'S SUPREME COURT / PROFESSOR AT EL COLEGIO DE MÉXICO". At the bottom, it states "This event was made possible by the generous support of ISERP". A QR code is on the left, and the event details "Thursday, October 17th, 4:10 PM - 5:40 PM, ROOM 802 IAB, 420 W 118th St" are on the right.





ARGENTINA STUDIES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Building upon the strengths of ILAS's faculty, including its Director and student interest in Argentina and the Southern Cone, and leveraging ILAS' connections with the Argentine Consulate and the work of 20 faculty working on Argentina, the Argentine Studies Program aims to stimulate discussion, research, and collaboration on and off campus about the country and the region, and to provide opportunities for Argentine scholars and decision makers.

The Program has organized a variety of events about Argentina, including Panel discussions on *Argentina's Political Economy and the Milei Administration* and on *Mafalda Beyond the Comic: Cinema and Research for a Globalized Audience*. We also organized presentations of Policy Briefs on *Innovation and Industrial Policy in Argentina* featuring our Visiting Scholars.

THE ARGENTINE STUDIES VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Established in 2020, the Fellowship program offers unique, funded opportunities for scholars and scientists in Argentina interested in spending two months at Columbia University while engaging in public policy-related research, attending and contributing to public programming, interacting with faculty and students, and participating in courses. The fellowship is supported by the Foundation for Argentinean Development (Fundar). With focal topics changing every year, the Fellowship's purpose is to strengthen scholarly ties between Columbia and the academic community of Argentina while fostering research that can inform a broad policy conversation in Argentina and the region. The scholars present the implications of their work for public policy both in New York to the scholarly community of Columbia and the larger policy community at the Argentine Consulate and in FUNDAR's headquarters in Buenos Aires. ILAS hosted the following two fellows this academic year:








Argentina's Political Economy and the Milei Administration

GERARDO DELLA PAOLERA
 PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS,
 TORCUATO DI TELLA UNIVERSITY
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
 FUNDACION BUNGE Y BORN

COMMENTATOR
FERNANDO CIRELLI
 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
 OF INTERNATIONAL
 AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

CHAIR
ALAN M. TAYLOR
 PROFESSOR OF
 INTERNATIONAL AND
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

RSVP here 

Tuesday, October 1st
12 PM - 1:30 PM
ROOM 802 IAB
420 W 118th St




Mafalda Beyond the Comic: Cinema and Research for a Globalized Audience

JULIÁN TROKSBERG
 FILM DIRECTOR
 AND WRITER

ISABELLA COSSE
 PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER,
 UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE
 SAN MARTÍN/CONICET

MODERATED BY
VICTORIA MURILLO
 ILAS DIRECTOR,
 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

RSVP here 

Wednesday, October 9th
4 PM - 5:30 PM
ROOM 802 IAB
420 W 118th St



Pablo Sanguinetti holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (1992). He is currently a Professor at Torcuato Di Tella University in Argentina. He has worked as a consultant for the IMF, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Inter-American Development Bank. He was Director of Socioeconomic Research, Chief Economist, and Vice President of Knowledge at CAF-Development Bank of Latin America (October 2007- February 2022). Pablo was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Trade Commission of Argentina (1996-2000). His areas of specialization are international trade and integration, macroeconomics, development, and public finance. He has published academic articles in international journals, book chapters, and policy reports on these topics.



Federico Accursi is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, Universidad Austral in Rosario (Argentina), and Research Fellow of the Center of Agribusiness and Food at the same university. He recently obtained his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Navarra (Spain). In the Fall 2022, he was a Research Visitor at the Center of Energy Studies, Baker Institute for Public Policies, Rice University, in Houston, Texas. His research interests include energy poverty, environmental and agricultural economics. Federico has studied the role of power reliability for rural households in Guatemala and the impact of deploying mini-grids in Tanzania, most of which are based on renewable energy. Currently, he is studying the development of the biogas industry through dairy manure treatment in Argentina. He has participated in several conferences by the International Association for Energy Economics and in the International Symposium "Green Opportunities" at the University of Barcelona.





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 heart of our Program is innovation, community, and collaborative thinking.

Over the past academic year, the Greater Caribbean Studies Program has been actively engaged in a variety of initiatives. We embarked 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. This effort culminated in the publication of the first report on Caribbean Studies at Columbia, titled *'Keep it Going': Report on Greater Caribbean Studies at Columbia University*, which will guide our work for the next five years. We also revamped our website (<https://ilas.columbia.edu/caribbean-studies>) and co-organized several events that reflect our research priorities, including climate change, governance, and the arts. These activities have not only expanded our community engagement in the city and beyond but also underscored our commitment to advancing the understanding of the Greater Caribbean.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS

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, and President Luis Guillermo Solis Rivera of Costa Rica 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. In the 2023-2024 academic year, the Program supported a Columbia World Leaders Forum event



with President Luis Abinader Corona of the Dominican Republic, a multidisciplinary discussion on Reimagining Climate Action Across the Caribbean Diaspora in collaboration with the Climate School, and a book presentation on *Breve historia de la censura en Cuba* with New York's Centro Cultural Cubano.

2024-2025 PROGRAMMING

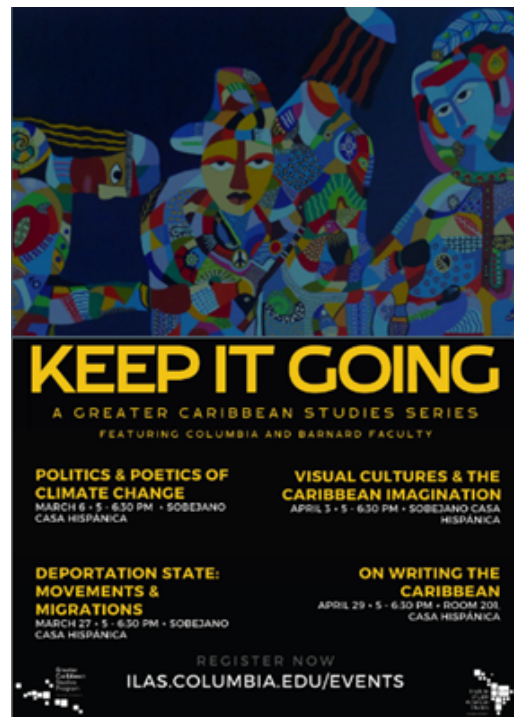
The program organized or co-sponsored 11 events focused on the region in the 2024-2025 academic year. This included programming in collaboration with ILAS. Events also included collaborations with other units at Columbia (e.g., AAADS, CSER, IRAAS, LAIC Barnard African Studies, the Climate School, and SIPA). The GCP was also involved in programming with student groups on campus, focusing on the Greater Caribbean. GCP events included:

- *Book discussion with author Richard Blanco: Homeland of My Body*
- *Book Talk: Survival is a Promise: The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde*
- *Worm: A Cuban American Odyssey with author Edel Rodriguez*
- *Rita Indiana: Paranoia & Resistance in Luis Días' AfroCaribbean Punk*
- *Marlene L. Daut: The First and Last King of Haiti*
- *Reclaiming Haiti's Futures: A Book Talk with Darlène Dubuisson*
- *Threading Subjects, Stitching Stories: A Talk and Embroidery Workshop with Lulu Varona*

ROUNDTABLE SERIES

Among the most important initiatives this academic year was a roundtable series. Based on the listening tour and resulting report, [Keep it Going: Report on Greater Caribbean Studies at Columbia](#), completed in the previous academic year, the Director of the program, Frances Negrón-Muntaner, identified three core axes for the roundtables: climate change, migration, and the arts. Based on this report and discussions with Divisional Deans, we developed a series of roundtables for this academic year. The primary objective was for faculty working on Caribbean studies to learn more about each other's work and to share their expertise and insights with Columbia students and faculty, as well as other interested constituencies outside of Columbia. The roundtables accomplished their core goal of familiarizing the community with Columbia and Barnard faculty in the field. They also showcased the high quality and diversity of the faculty's work. The series included the following discussions:

- *Climate Change and the Caribbean*
- *On the Move: Perspectives on Contemporary Migration*
- *Visual Cultures & the Caribbean Imagination*
- *On Writing the Caribbean*





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