

# Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



Number 9, Summer 2021





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### Meet the editorial team:

*Horizontes*, the newsletter of the Latin American Centre, is the product of a collective effort that relies upon the editorial planning of a team of students and members of academic and administrative staff: Humberto Juárez Rocha, Louisa Wagner, Clorrie Yeomans, Matthias Brickel, Johannes Minke Contreras, Maria Izabel Bahia, Maria Puolakkainen, Oliver Fletcher, Lucy Driver and Eduardo Posada-Carbó. We thank Andrew Harvey for his superb work in designing *Horizontes*.



1 Church Walk (Latin American Centre) on a rainy autumn day



### Lucy and Elvira

Lucy and Elvira (and Ruby!) continued to work from home during 2020-21. We have missed meeting this year's students in-person, but it has been great to be able to get to know everyone virtually. Please stay in touch and come and visit us at the LAC in the future!

# Director's Report

Eduardo Posada-Carbó  
Director, the Latin American Centre

Our academic year opened with a note of optimism as Professor Carlota Pérez delivered her inaugural lecture at the LAC back in October 2020. While of course acknowledging the severity of the crisis, the threat of future environmental catastrophes, and 'the need for more balanced globalisation', Professor Pérez stressed that 'these are times for institutional innovations', and invited her audience to create new visions for the future. Hers, I thought, was a model lecture to welcome our students and colleagues at the start of a new academic year, offering hope in the middle of the pandemic, indeed, in defiance of COVID-19.

It was certainly a year full of challenges, from adjusting the delivery of our courses to making sure that the incoming students felt integrated into the Centre in spite of the obvious limitations imposed by the circumstances. Our second year MPhil students and all the staff did a wonderful job in making the new cohort feel at home. Louisa Wagner, James Woodley and Isabel Bernhard, the students' representatives at our Joint Consultative Committee, went out of their way to help us keep the LAC spirit alive. Teaching, learning, and researching online was made all the more possible thanks to our library team, whose fantastic work helped us to have access to the relevant digital resources.

Rather than slowing us down, the crisis motivated a flurry of activity as our events enlarged the LAC community across continents. A good number of our seminars gave special attention to the pandemic, which has hit Latin America severely. At a time of 'vaccine nationalism', it was refreshing to listen to the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Carissa F. Etienne, on the need for a global approach to solve the problem. In our Guido di Tella Memorial Lecture, Silvana Tenreiro highlighted how imperative it is for Latin America to minimise the damage arising from the coronavirus, particularly in education. Our Coffee and Science seminar series devoted some of its sessions

to examine the impact of COVID in Brazil, one of the countries that continues to suffer the most from the pandemic.

We were privileged to host former Chilean president and current UN High Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet, who inaugurated our Trinity Term. Introduced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Louise Richardson, the UN High Commissioner addressed the topic 'Discrimination in the Americas' in an engaging conversation with our students. Some of our students also took the lead in the organisation of other panels that examined recent important events in the region, like the political crisis in Perú and the Ecuadorian elections. The subjects covered in our main seminar series were wide ranging – including the Chilean protests, indigenous resistance to narcoterrorism in Mexico, the political economy of energy transition, and the Venezuelan crisis. The doctoral students' network, based at the LAC, has now expanded its reach through its successful online seminar series. The Brazilian Studies Programme held our traditional annual conference on Brazil, this time scheduled in staggered fashion throughout most of the Trinity Term.

We continued supporting the Oxford-Berlin initiative. In Michaelmas, the LAC hosted what we believe was the first Oxford-Berlin joint doctoral workshop; we also held joint seminars with the Institute of Latin American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, and with the Centre Marc Bloch – the latter supported by the Oxford Modern History Seminar. Collaborative work is of course a trademark of academic life. We joined efforts with other institutes, within and outside Oxford, in the organisation of some of our seminars – with the German Institute for Global Affairs, the Spanish El Cano Royal Institute, the Rothermere American Institute and the Iberian History Seminar.

The LAC online party in March was a real virtual feast. In revising *Horizontes*

before going to press, I was moved by Humberto J. Rocha's account of the joy brought to us by the students, colleagues, and friends who interpreted music, read poetry, and set up an imaginative quiz while we continued sipping the exquisite wine selected by Clorrie Yeomans. Later in the term, Clorrie also organised an online wine tasting event, where Amanda Barnes presented her new book *The South America Wine Guide*.

While we were not able to offer them our usual hospitality, we were pleased to welcome academic visitors and recognised students undeterred by the pandemic, as well as new post-doctoral fellows, all of whom enrich so much the life of the LAC. We were also pleased to see some of our former students keeping in touch with their cohort and attending our online events. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, the Malcolm Deas Fund continues to offer great support to the activities of fellows and students. For the second year in a row, the Argentine Educational Trust has enabled us to offer financial help to our students.

The Latin American Centre is an outstanding institution which I have had the privilege of directing during the past three years. It has been a most rewarding experience, thanks to the extraordinary support I have received from my academic colleagues, the administrative staff, librarians, students, and the wider community that the LAC has been able to create over more than five decades of existence. I am delighted that David Doyle will take over the directorship of the LAC in September and look forward to working under his leadership.

Overall, this academic year has been a hard way to learn first hand the meaning of the expression 'weathering the storm'. But this is undoubtedly an understatement for all the great achievements, successes and joyful moments that this edition of *Horizontes* registers.



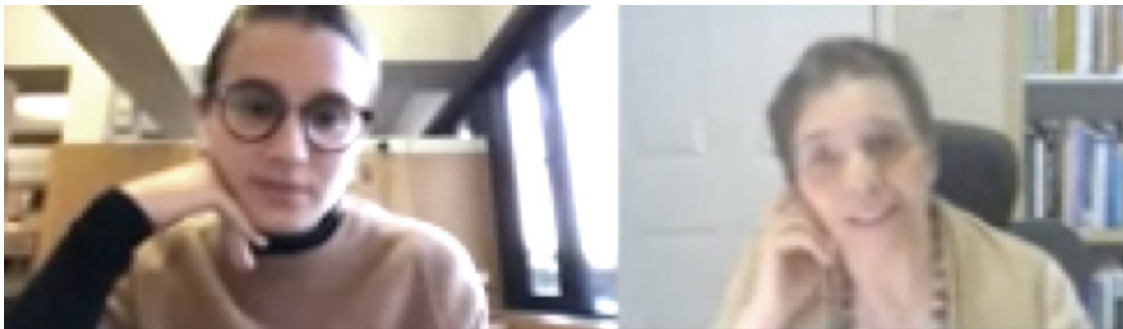
# An Optimistic View of the Future

The message from Professor Carlota Pérez at the Inaugural Lecture of the new academic year at the LAC

'What role can COVID-19 play in the development perspectives in Latin America?', was the question addressed by Carlota Pérez, Honorary Professor at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (UCL) and at the University of Sussex, in the Inaugural Lecture of the LAC academic year, on 13 October 2020. To this aim, Professor Pérez first offered a long-term overview of how technological revolutions have evolved over the previous two and half centuries. She identified

five phases, from the industrial revolution to the current 'information, technology and telecommunications revolution' – of which she theorised we are only half-way through ('the golden age is still to come', she noted). For Pérez, 'the pandemic is opening a new epoch', with post-COVID reconstruction likely to accelerate changes in 'production methods, unsustainable lifestyles, and in policies of development'. Pérez identified this period as a window of opportunity. However, she said, 'the

pandemic has raised the alert about environmental catastrophes and the need for a more balanced globalisation', adding that, 'these are times for institutional innovations and for creating shared visions'. Closing what was an inspirational speech to open the academic year at the LAC, Pérez noted that the moment had arrived to seize upon the opportunities of a post-COVID world, adding 'let's not miss it'.



Professor Pérez responding to a question from our MPhil student, Maria Poulakkainen.

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## Regional Approaches to the Pandemic in the Americas

In a joint seminar with El Cano Royal Institute (Spain) and the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, on 18 May the LAC hosted the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr Carissa F. Etienne, who addressed the topic 'Regional Approaches to the Pandemic in the Americas'. A native of Dominica, Dr Etienne received her medical degree from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and her MSc in Community Health in Developing Countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, United Kingdom.







# UN High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet at the LAC

By Humberto J. Rocha

The Latin American Centre hosted former President of Chile and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet for its inaugural main seminar in Trinity Term. Following an introduction by University Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson, Bachelet gave a brief speech on the present-day challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore in a region with pressing long-term inequalities and systemic discrimination. She also shed light on the activism, policies, and efforts that aim to bring about much needed change.

From the beginning, Bachelet commended the vigor of younger generations for their activism and advocacy for human rights, calling their efforts a 'powerful demonstration of the value of human rights' despite the impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on the youth and poor in Latin America. She highlighted the need for universal health coverage 'based on the realities and needs of the population,' and called for the defense of migrants who have had to leave their native countries as a result of worsening socio-economic conditions.

During the Q&A section chaired by Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó, LAC students and affiliates touched upon a variety of topics ranging from questioning how Chile's new constitution would promote indigenous political participation, to the movements countering the progress of reproductive, environmental and human rights in a region that has seen a number of human rights advocates and activists murdered with impunity. The discussion also served to further highlight the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare some of the region's socio-economic deficiencies and failures.

While every answer was limited in time, on each occasion Bachelet's answers were pointed and specific. From demanding accountability for the murders of human rights activists to denouncing government restrictions on the freedom of press and against social movements, the high commissioner emphasized that the United Nations continues to closely monitor the situation worldwide as part of its work supporting the fight against gender- and race-based discrimination and inequality.

**For Latin America, however, High Commissioner Bachelet's message was clear: Latin America cannot return to a pre-pandemic normality. The continent needs to build back better with a whole-of-society approach so that the inequalities of today are gone for future generations. 'Participation is not only a right, but the way out of this crisis,' Bachelet said.**

Like many LAC events throughout 2020-21, the conversation took place virtually, bringing together more than 130 participants from all over the world.



UN Commissioner Bachelet. From left to right on top: Timothy Power, Head of OSGA; Eduardo Posada-Carbó, LAC Director; UN Commissioner Bachelet; Louise Richardson, Oxford Vice-Chancellor; Christopher Stone, Blavatnik School of Government; Maria Puolakkainen, LAC Student.



# Learning across continents: students on an unpredictable 2020-21 year

By Humberto J. Rocha

From the United States to Chile to Taiwan, LAC students studied remotely from all over the world as in-person classes were a rarity at Oxford this academic year. Throughout 2020 and 2021, MSc and MPhil students weighed the decision to return home during the winter months, while others opted to venture to England in the spring. Some even traveled to other locations to wait for better conditions as the vaccine rollout began in the UK.

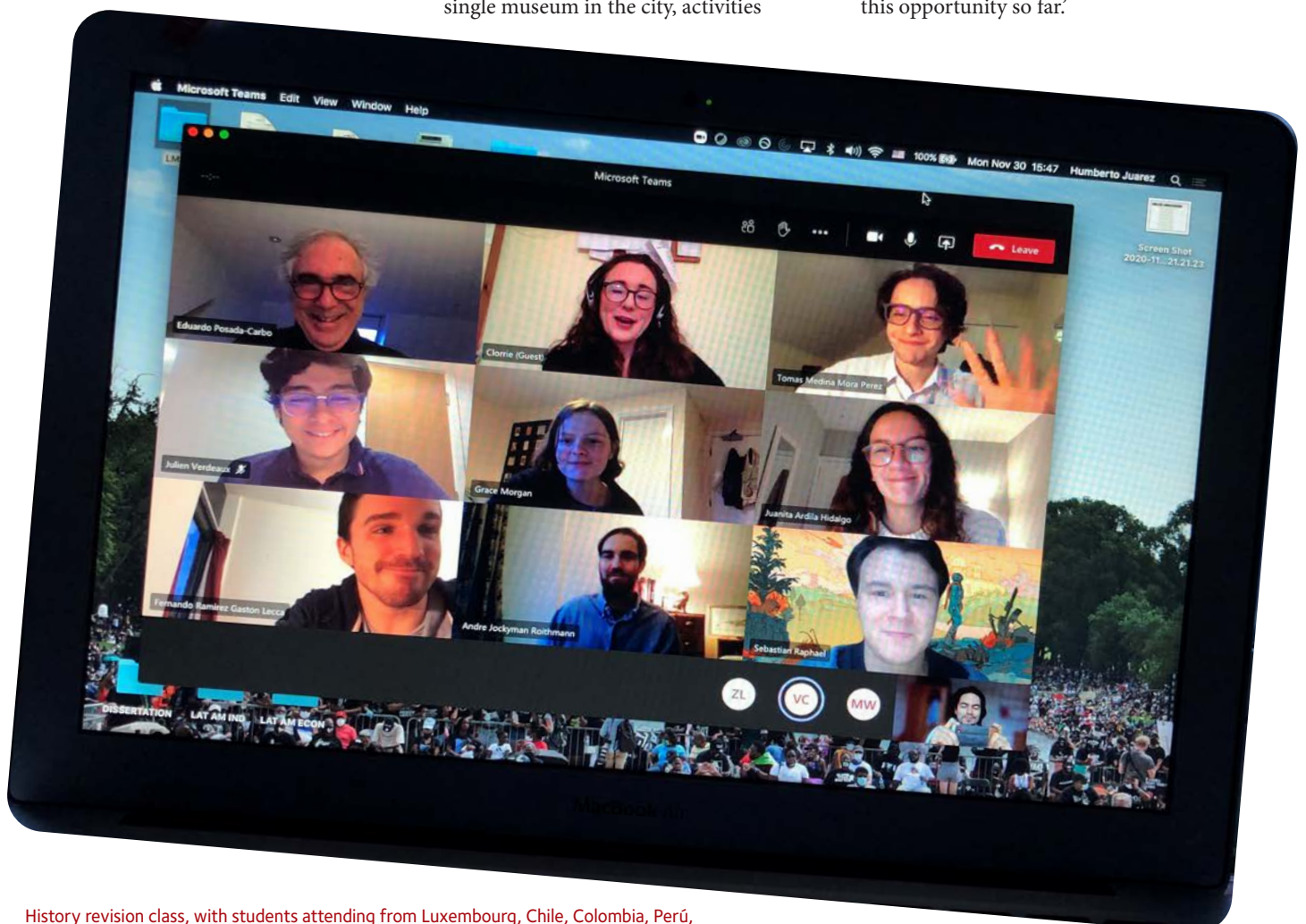
‘My main concern was to some extent uncertainty about England’s strategy on COVID,’ said second year MPhil student Pablo Uribe. ‘Online classes allowed me to stay in other cities. Of course, I miss a lot of things: libraries, the LAC, St. Antony’s, football, and long conversations on interesting themes.’

MSc student Isabel Bernhard did not have initial concerns when travelled to Oxford for Michaelmas Term, nothing that ‘like a lot of people, I definitely hoped for as normal a year as possible.’ In December, Bernhard went to Taipei for the break, and when she became aware that the UK was to go into another lockdown, made the decision to stay in Asia where she remained into Trinity Term. ‘When it became clear that [things were not going to be normal], I tried to savor small moments like Diego’s in person class or two-person walks in the parks with friends,’ Bernhard said.

For MSc student Juanita Ardila, the pandemic severely limited her short stay in Oxford. Ardila dreamt of joining the volleyball team and visiting every single museum in the city, activities

that were impossible during her time here in Michaelmas Term. ‘I came back to Colombia to continue studying from home. This has actually been very inspiring because I have been an active student of Oxford while also writing my dissertation on indigenous peoples’ rights in Colombia,’ she said.

Another MSc student, Luis Octavio Dos Santos, hails from Brazil and was in Coimbra, Portugal until he moved to Oxford in early May. After contracting COVID-19 in Portugal, Dos Santos chose to move to Oxford to make the most of the remaining experience. ‘Meeting other students is what I missed the most. I think one of the most important benefits of being in a university environment is to share ideas and projects. I have not had this opportunity so far.’



History revision class, with students attending from Luxembourg, Chile, Colombia, Perú, El Salvador and the UK: Top from left to right: Eduardo Posada-Carbó, Clorrie Yeomans, Tomás Medina, Julien Verdeaux, Grace Morgan, Juanita Ardila, Fernando Ramírez Gastón, Andre Jockyman, Sebastián Prego, Zhihao Lai, Victoria Bolaños and Maddy Wattles, and Humberto Juarez Rocha.





Staying warm at the Taylor Institute Library during the winter

After the tough winter months, the situation in the UK improved and COVID-19 cases decreased in Oxford. In mid-May, the UK government announced that it would allow household mixing indoors and allow up to 30 people to mingle outdoors – hopefully just in time for the LAC party taking place in late June.



Student attending an online class



Dissertation submission day: Left to right: Dr Andreza de Souza Santos, Isabella Branco, Luis Gouveia, Maria Izabel Bahia, Robyn Heitzman.



# Brazilian Studies Programme Annual Conference

The Brazilian Studies Programme Annual Conference “The real and imagined Brazil: examining narratives of dissent” took place on Wednesday afternoons for 5 weeks during Trinity Term 2021. This year’s conference was organised by the Director of the Programme, Dr Andreza A de Souza Santos and Dr Katerina Hatzikidi, from the University of Tübingen. The debates centred on the phenomena of fake news and denialism in Brazil, corresponding misinformation and attacks on science, and the repercussions for democracy and society. The five interrelated panels were:

## Panel 1.

Fake News and the Exercise of Democracy in Contemporary Brazil  
Keynote Speaker: Minister Dias Toffoli-Brazil Supreme Court  
Commentators: Ezequiel Gonzalez Ocantos (University of Oxford) and Nara Pávão (UFPE)

## Panel 2.

Doing One’s Job Versus Keeping One’s Job: Strategies of Dissent.

Speakers: Ricardo Galvão (USP), Gabriela Lotta (FGV), and Aaron Ansell (Virginia Tech)

Chair: Katherine Bersch (Davidson College)

## Panel 3.

“O Estado é Laico mas o Governo é Cristão”: Religious Groups in Politics - Between Tolerance and Intolerance.

Speakers: Amy Erica Smith (Iowa State), Ana Carolina Evangelista (FGV/ISER), David Simbsler (EHESS), and Ariel Goldstein (Conicet)

Chair: David Lehmann (University of Cambridge)

## Panel 4.

Uncertainty and Fragmented Policy Strategies: the Pandemic in Brazil

Speakers: Eduardo Stranz (CNM), Lorena Barberia (USP), Andreza A de Souza Santos (University of Oxford), and Elaine Nascimento (Fiocruz-PI/UFPI)

Chair: Anna Petherick (Blavatnik School of Government)

## Panel 5.

Brazil’s Populist Authoritarian Grip: What is at Stake for Brazilian Democracy

Speakers: Esther Solano Gallego (Unifesp), Isabela Kallil (FESPSP), Katerina Hatzikidi (Tübingen), and Marcos Nobre (CEBRAP)

Chair: Anthony Pereira (KCL)

## Closure Keynote:

The Brazilian Supreme Court in Pandemic Times

Keynote Speaker: Minister Luiz Fux – Supreme Federal Court of Brazil.

Commentator: Timothy Power (University of Oxford).

Final Considerations by the Organisers:

Andreza A de Souza Santos (University of Oxford) and Katerina Hatzikidi (University of Tübingen)

We thank all the speakers for the fascinating series of events on a timely issue in Brazil. Our students at the LAC, prospective students, and former students tuned in for this event, considered to be ‘the best conference on Brazil’ they had attended. All panels were bi-lingual, with interpretation offered in English or Portuguese. Video recordings of each session are now available on YouTube. More details on Twitter at @OxfordBSP.

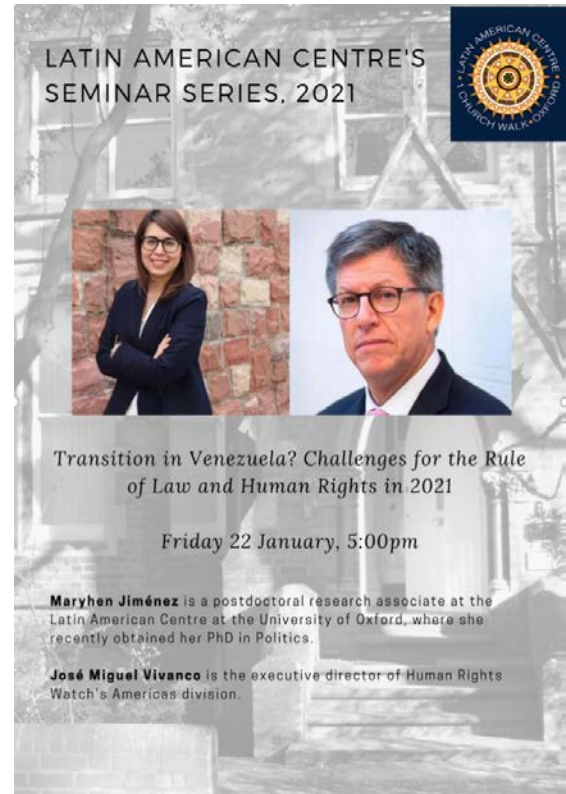




# OUR MAIN SEMINAR IN HILARY TERM

During Hilary Term 2021, Drs Andreza de Souza Santos, Francesca Lessa and Maryhen Jiménez Morales convened our Seminar Series. Despite the challenging times imposed by the global pandemic, the LAC had the privilege of hosting renowned scholars from around the world. Those eight weeks included talks and papers on a diverse range of topics of contemporary relevance to Latin America. Dr Maryhen Jiménez Morales opened the series alongside Jose Miguel Vivanco, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, with a talk on human rights and the challenge for a transition in Venezuela. Ethnographic talks featured prominently in the series, including a discussion on ethnography in violent contexts, by Professor Roddy Brett (University of Bristol); a paper on evangelicals in Brazil by Dr Juliano Spyer, and a talk on Resilience in Guatemala's Disasterscape by Professor Julie Cupples (University of Edinburgh). Moreover, Dr Alisha Holland (Harvard University) discussed "The Rise of Mass Infrastructure in Latin America", followed by Professor Guillermo Trejo (University of Notre Dame) who presented his work

on "Indigenous Resistance to Narco Rule: Social Movements, Participatory Institutions, and Grassroots Community Policing in Mexico". The series also included a book talk with Professor Kathryn Hochstetler (LSE) on the "Political Economies of Energy Transition: Wind and Solar Power in Brazil and South Africa" and ended with an up-to-date discussion on constitutional changes in Chile with Professor Hassan Akram from Wake Forest University's Chile Centre. We are very glad to report that over 600 students and scholars joined us during the series.



The poster for the Latin American Centre's Seminar Series 2021 features a background image of a classical building facade. At the top right is the LAC logo, a circular emblem with a sunburst design and the text 'LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE' and 'CHRISTIAN WALKER' around it. Below the title, there are two portrait photos: a woman with dark hair and glasses (Maryhen Jiménez) and a man with grey hair and glasses (José Miguel Vivanco). The text on the poster reads: 'LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE'S SEMINAR SERIES, 2021', 'Transition in Venezuela? Challenges for the Rule of Law and Human Rights in 2021', 'Friday 22 January, 5:00pm'. At the bottom, there are two biographical notes: 'Maryhen Jiménez is a postdoctoral research associate at the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford, where she recently obtained her PhD in Politics.' and 'José Miguel Vivanco is the executive director of Human Rights Watch's Americas division.'

## John Fell Grant Awarded to Dr Andreza de Souza Santos

Dr Andreza De Souza Santos, Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme and Departmental Lecturer at the LAC, was awarded a John Fell Fund Grant for her project "Becoming or Getting by: Youth Opportunities in Times of Economic Crisis". In this project, Andreza will work together with Dr Gabriel Feltran (UFSCAR-Brazil) to examine a growing interest in military careers among young people in Brazil and how such renewed interest may be connected to a lack of opening positions in other areas. This project adds to Andreza's research on economic diversification in Brazilian municipalities and Gabriel's long trajectory studying young people in Brazil. The project also advances a collaborative research agenda - Gabriel was a visiting scholar at the LAC in 2019. Andreza and Gabriel will start the project this year, a timely moment to investigate economic crisis and youth unemployment and opportunities in Brazil.





# PAULA MORENO, FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE IN COLOMBIA, ON 'RACIAL EQUALITY IN LATIN AMERICA'

On 3 June 2021, Paula Moreno Zapata, Colombia's former Minister of Culture, gave a talk on "The Next New Normal for Racial Equality in Latin America: The Relativity of Progress and Power" in the Latin American Centre Main Seminar series. Moreno holds an MPhil in Management Studies from the University of Cambridge and is author of the memoir *El poder de lo invisible*, published with Penguin Random House. She is also the founder and president of the Colombian organization Manos Visibles, which promotes the empowerment of grassroots leaders in marginalized areas of the country.

In her talk at the LAC, Moreno talked about the progress indigenous and Afro-descendent Latin Americans have made towards gaining access to political and cultural leadership positions. While she was Colombia's first-ever female black government minister, for example, there have been four other black ministers since the end of her own government service. She credits that progress both to the perseverance of the generations of Afro-Colombians who, in her words, "have performed freedom and citizenship" in the 170 years since the abolition of slavery and, more immediately, to the "ecosystem" of globally-connected social movements that has emerged in Colombia in the last few decades and pushed for the achievement of racial equality.

Moreno also stressed how much work still lay ahead of people fighting for racial equality in Latin America. Black and indigenous people are still severely underrepresented in positions of power, be it in government, culture, or private enterprise. She gave an example of the racist attitudes that continue to permeate Latin American society: an important businessman from Cali in a conversation with her blamed the



Louisa Wagner and James Woodley, MPhil students; Paula Moreno, our guest speaker, and Malcolm Deas, LAC Emeritus.

recent protests in that city on black and indigenous people coming "from the outside" and disturbing the quiet of peaceful Cali inhabitants. Moreno explained the prevalence of such ideas by the distribution of power in Cali. Although about half of Cali's population is in fact black, she said, "you don't see that population playing a role in the power structure of the city." Moreno's talk thus stressed that racial progress in Latin America is real – but also tenuous and far from complete.

Timo Schaefer, LAC

**Moreno also stressed how much work still lay ahead of people fighting for racial equality in Latin America.**



# LAC History Seminar

Oliver Fletcher



Cristina Soriano (top second from the right), in her Tertulia with Juan Neves (top third from right) about her book *Tides of Revolution*. As in other Tertulias, we were joined by colleagues and students across the Atlantic, including here Iván Jaksić (Chile); Paula Alonso and Celso Castilho (USA); Karen Racine (Canada); Julia de la Fuente (Mexico); and Andre Jockyman, Andrew Edwards, Malcolm Deas and Dexnell Peters (Oxford).

One of the small rays of sunshine amid the gloom of a COVID-affected year has been the richness and warmth of the LAC's online seminar offerings. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in the weekly History Seminar, coordinated as ever by Eduardo, quick to take advantage of the greater access to both speakers and participants as afforded by the move to Zoom, the various presentations and tertulias served to demonstrate the community's resilience in the face of crisis, and the persistent ability of academic enquiry to transcend the boundaries of a locked down world.

Particular personal highlights from Michaelmas include Ilan Stavans in conversation with Jorge Cañizares on the former's recent retelling of the Popol Vuh, and my DPhil colleague Nicolás Prados discussing his work on the Caribbean Cold War with Laurence Whitehead. In each case, topics both geographically and chronologically distant from my own were discussed with a degree of insight and deftness of touch both captivating and inspirational in equal measure. Similarly, fellow DPhil students Andre Jockyman and Juan Neves both delivered supremely professional and sympathetic performances as chair and discussant respectively in two events exploring the intellectual history of Latin America and the end of colonial rule in Venezuela.

In the new year, Erika Denise Edwards's sharing of her research on the hitherto understudied roles of black women in nineteenth century Argentina, Peter Guardino's masterful exploration of the Mexican-American War, Caitlin Fitz speaking on the impact of Latin America on the US abolition movement, and Alice Baumgartner discussing her work on Mexico as a destination for runaway American slaves all stood out. In every instance, speakers who would likely otherwise not have been available to an Oxford audience succeeded in reminding us all of the best that university life can offer, in circumstances otherwise so frequently disheartening.

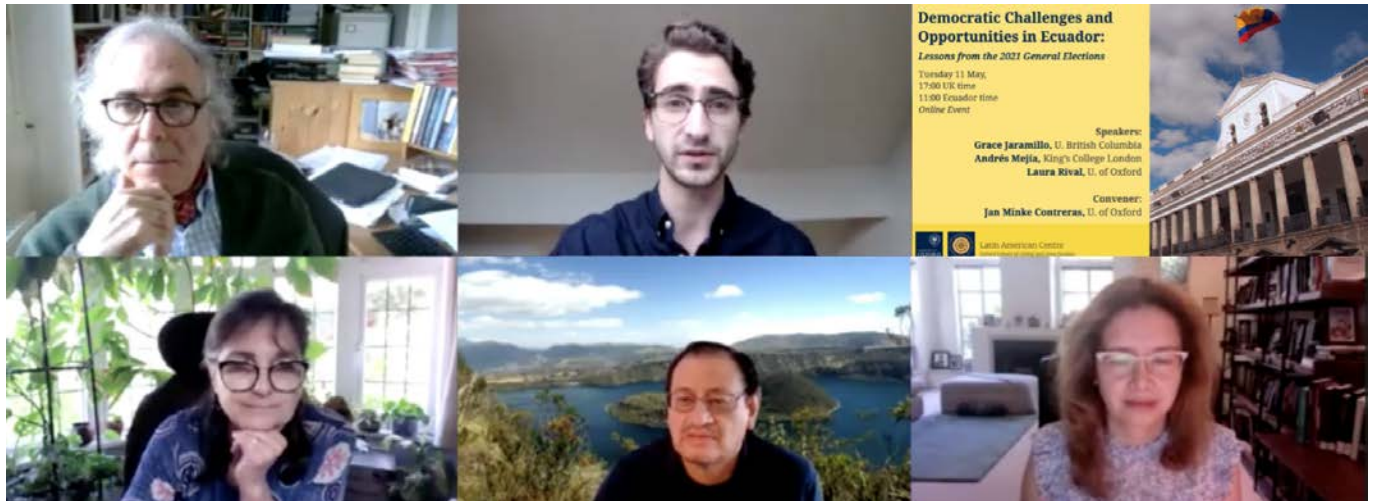
I would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the seminar series throughout the year, as well as Eduardo, whose capacity for organizing the event since its inception in 2013 was surely subjected to its most rigorous test so far. While next year will hopefully bring the return of in-person sessions at the LAC, the editions of 2020-21 can only be described as a rousing success.

The Latin American History seminar closed the academic year with a joint event co-organised with the Iberian History Seminar: on 17 June, Aldair Carlos Rodrigues, from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Brazil, presented the paper 'African Body Markings and Racialisation in Eighteenth Century Brazil'.





# Ecuador Panel



Jan Minke Contreras, convener of the event (top), and panellists (from left to right) Laura Rival (Oxford); Andrés Mejía (King's College, London), and Grace Jaramillo (British Columbia).

Latin America saw a series of ground-breaking elections in 2021 that redefined the political course of the region. The Presidential Elections in Ecuador were not the exception and provide a thought-provoking case with many numerous insights. As such, on 11 May, the LAC hosted a fascinating conversation on the challenges and opportunities the incoming government of Guillermo Lasso will face. For this occasion, we were joined by Dr Andrés Mejía (King's College London), Dr Grace Jaramillo (U. British Columbia) and Prof Laura Rival (Oxford Department of International Development). The conversation was convened by Jan Minke Contreras, an Ecuadorean MSc student at the Centre.

The panel was multidisciplinary and probably as diverse as Ecuador itself, with accounts ranging from economics, political science, anthropology and sociology. It might well be that precisely because of this, it was a well-suited group to examine the complicated panorama. In their opening remarks, all speakers converged on the fact that Lasso had to operate on social and political consensus. Ecuador's fragmented politics and diverse social fabric prevent him from operating on an imposed agenda. Mejía stressed the importance of building consensus around the much-needed fiscal reforms to prevent widespread protests like those in Colombia and Chile in 2021 and 2019

respectively. Jaramillo added that foreign policy would also need to be rooted on political and social consensus. As Lasso embarks in a pro-free trade and commercial-led foreign policy, he will need to secure support in the National Assembly where his party holds a slim minority. Finally, Rival built on this citing her extended field research in the Ecuadorean Amazon. She reminded the audience that Lasso will have to construct national agreements on economic policy that includes environmental and indigenous perspectives. Specifically, she highlighted the conflicts between Lasso's oil extraction plans and the conservation efforts in the Amazon.

While the challenges the new Ecuadorean government will face are immense, the conversation also highlighted the opportunities. Rival argued that indigenous rights have seen their rights widely abused under Lasso's last two predecessors. As such, the incoming president has the opportunity to rectify past abuses and promote the respect of human and nature's rights. Mejía stressed the unique opportunity Lasso has in strengthening Ecuador's fragile democracy. "Lasso is at the crossroad of transforming politics in Ecuador" and as such, can move away from "political persecution" and clientelism by promoting consensus and collaboration. Finally, Jaramillo stated that Lasso's

government has the opportunity to prove a "regional predisposition of seeing economic growth as opposed to social justice" wrong and foment growth that is both inclusive and sustainable.

Lasso faces a complicated scenario marked by a divided political arena, a society in need, and an economy struggling to recover. The key will largely be turning these challenges into opportunities by building inclusive agreements. If Lasso were to succeed, it would undoubtedly become an indication that new governance is possible in Latin America.

Jan Minke Contreras

# Guido di Tella Memorial Lecture

## SILVANA TENREYRO ON THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FROM THE PANDEMIC

Professor Silvana Tenreyro delivered the 6th Guido di Tella Memorial Lecture on 25 May. Currently an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England, Professor Tenreyro lectured on the topic 'Economic Challenges to Latin America from the Pandemic'. She opened her talk by referring to the legacy of Guido di Tella, the Argentine economist who also served as Foreign Minister from 1991 to 1999. She praised di Tella's 'contributions to public life and his lasting legacy to political ideas, research and education', while highlighting 'his commitment to public service grounded in lucid scholarship', adding that 'he was a role model for economists'.

Professor Tenreyro's lecture conveyed two main points: First, that the key 'challenge to policymakers everywhere is to minimize the longer term or permanent damage arising from COVID' – an 'imperative' in Latin American economies, where the pandemic is likely to lead to higher levels of poverty. Education, she stressed, would be key in this regard. Secondly, that monetary policy 'remains an important and powerful tool to stabilise the Latin American economies, both in general and in the context of the recovery from the pandemic'. Since many countries had already put in place credible inflation-targeting strategies, she noted, these countries can now 'reap the benefits of these institutional investments'.

Professor Tenreyro's talk was followed by a lively discussion with an audience that included a significant number of participants from Argentina. The Guido di Tella Memorial Lecture was launched in 2013 thanks to the generous support of Guido's wife Nelly di Tella, to honour Guido di Tella's legacy, including his contribution to the academic world, as reflected in his scholarly work, his ideas, and his support to university institutions and cultural affairs. Since it was launched, the LAC has hosted lectures from Malcolm Deas (LAC Emeritus Fellow); John King (Professor of Literature at Warwick); Juan Alberto Fuentes (former Finance Minister of Guatemala); Catalina Smulovitz (then Vice-President of the Di Tella University);

and Gerardo Della Paolera (founding Rector of the Di Tella University).

Professor Tenreyro trained at the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán in Argentina, before continuing her graduate studies at Harvard where she completed an MA and a PhD in economics. She is Professor of Economics at the LSE and a member of the British Academy. Professor Tenreyro is currently an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England, where she was appointed for a second three-year term beginning July 2020.



### Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture

Economic Challenges to Latin America from the Pandemic





# LAC MSc student wins Best Postgraduate Idea Competition

The Oxford Foundry is an entrepreneurial hub searching for the most innovative ideas from the University of Oxford. Opened in 2017 by Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, this year the hub ran the “All Innovate” competition in search of the most creative and socially impactful ideas from students across all 33 colleges.

Gabriel Moreno, a MSc Latin American Studies student, successfully pitched his business Fiquetex, winning the award for Best Postgraduate Idea in the final. Fiquetex produces the world's first 100% sustainable, renewable, and biodegradable non-woven textiles made from the Colombian fique plant. Gabriel plans to make new eco-friendly fabrics for industry that have a variety of uses, such as packaging, carrier bags, flower wrapping, and scouring pads, as well as a durable and affordable leather

made entirely from the fique plant and natural rubber latex. Fiquetex plans to use a circular economy process to help reduce pollution, as its materials biodegrade in just 100 days once buried and become nutrients in the soil, while production will provide employment in rural areas of Colombia. The fique plant also rapidly absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>, while the production process uses just 10% of the energy needed to produce unsustainable materials such as Nylon. Fiquetex aims to make sustainable materials more affordable and widespread for industrial use.

Gabriel says the idea arose when both he and his father Alex grew concerned with the damage that plastic pollution was doing to the planet and became alarmed when they saw research predicting that by 2050 there will be more plastic bags

than fish in the world's oceans. When walking around their native Medellín, they saw that the adaptable fique plant, an extremely prolific cactus-like plant that requires little to no maintenance to grow and harvest, was not being used to its full potential. Currently, farmers discard the short fibres that are extracted from the plant, which Gabriel and Alex Moreno started to collect to produce their non-woven materials. After years of testing and design, they patented their process and worked with the Royal Academy of Engineering to perfect their idea.

Alex Holding Fique







MSc student Gabriel Moreno Whitehead with samples

Since receiving investment, they have built a state-of-the-art production line in Medellín and received hundreds of orders from all around the world. Gabriel highlighted the support from the vegan community, due to their fique leather being used as a substitute for cow leather in the fashion industry. He hopes to trade with major fashion houses and designers and is looking forward to debuting the materials at upcoming shows. Gabriel also says that the economics and international relations classes at the LAC have helped him gain a good background and understanding which he has used to plan his company strategy for the future. More information on the company can be found at [www.fiquetex.com](http://www.fiquetex.com).

## OXFORD LATIN AMERICAN GRADUATE NETWORK

In the academic year 2020–21, the Oxford Latin American Graduate Network (OLAGN) continued building an Oxford community of graduate students with a common interest in Latin America. Since we joined the organising team of the OLAGN, our goal has been to connect like-minded students by coordinating a wide variety of academic events.

This year we organised an entirely new Seminar Series, which hosted 10 online seminars distributed evenly across the three academic terms. These seminars covered a wide range of themes from indigenous movements and nineteenth-century revolutions, to criminal violence, political economy, national identity, and the role of experts in the state, among others.

The activities of the network also went global. In addition to the Seminar Series, we cooperated with colleagues from the Mondes Américains research group at the Université Paris I and from the Institute of Latin American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin to organise three roundtables about the issues and challenges that arise from conducting interdisciplinary research. These meetings led to the foundation of the International Latin American Graduate Network, a new and promising initiative that will allow us to expand our discussions and collaborations beyond Oxford.

Students from different departments across the university and other

institutions joined our seminars and roundtables throughout the year. We also received great enthusiasm and support from postgraduate students in our regular reading group on Gender and Latin America.

The online nature of the events, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, has allowed many early career scholars from around the globe to participate in these activities and thanks to our collaboration with friends from Paris and Berlin, the network expanded its reach in unprecedented ways. The challenges we faced this year encouraged us to think outside the box. As a result, the network and its community have moved forward. In the future, we hope to be able to combine new online tools with traditional face-to-face events, inviting more people to become a part of this initiative. We are very excited to welcome new students to join the network and to contribute as members of the organising team for the coming 2021–2022 academic year.

### OLAGN's Organising Team 2020–2021

Emilie Curryova, Andrés Guiot-Isaac, Juan Neves, and Joana Perrone

We can be contacted at [emilie.curryova@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emilie.curryova@sant.ox.ac.uk).





# The Oxford-Berlin Joint Doctoral Workshop

Taking advantage of the novel uses of online communications in academia, over 20 postgraduate researchers from the University of Oxford and the Freie Universität Berlin gathered for a joint doctoral workshop during the Michaelmas Term on 13 November 2020. The event was introduced by LAC director Eduardo Posada-Carbó, and by Professor Stefan Rinke, from the Berlin Institute for Latin American Studies.

The workshop represented a unique opportunity for students in Oxford and Berlin to meet, present their research to one another, and start what promises to be a fruitful academic exchange that we hope to strengthen in future joint initiatives. Students working on the research project 'Temporalities of the Future' at the ILAS interrogated the multiple ways in which time, society and culture can intersect to offer innovative insights in Latin American studies. Oxford students, for their part,

took part in the conversation from four research clusters: 'Communities and Social Movements', 'Social and Economic Policy', 'Politics and Print Culture', and 'Democracy and Authoritarianism'. Coming from different disciplinary constituencies, these presentations showed the importance of fostering interdepartmental conversations to open up new lines of inquiry and debate.

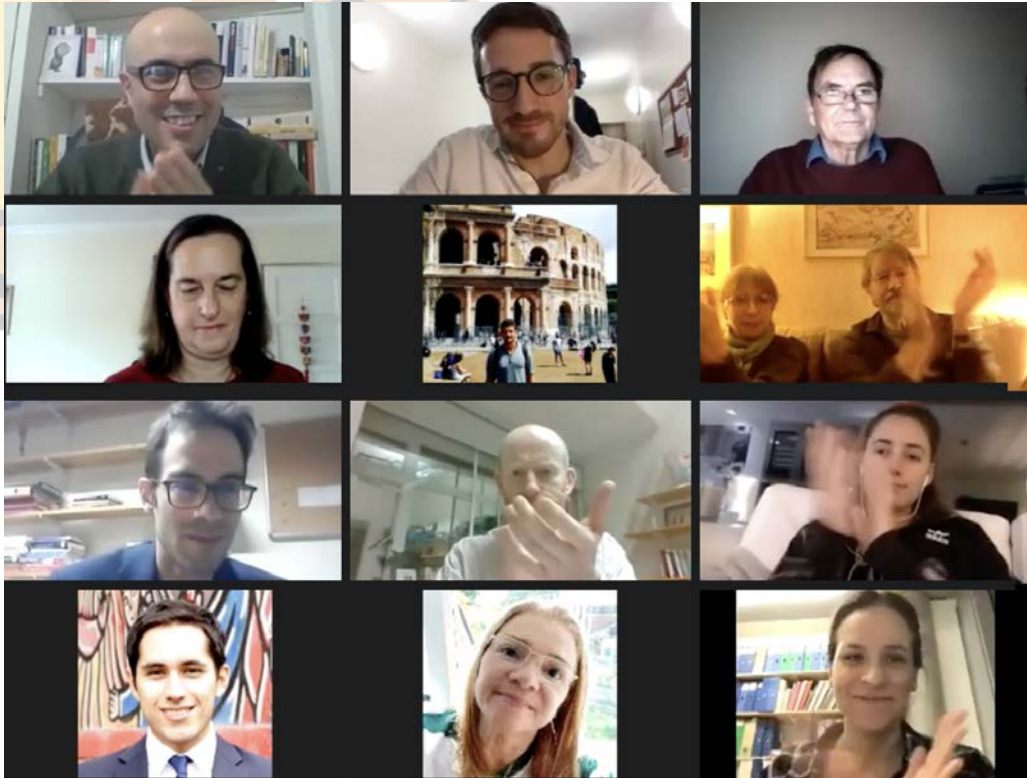
Despite the difficulties of organising events during the pandemic and the limited capacity to have appropriate instances for academic socialisation, the discussions that took place during the workshop were remarkably rewarding. After the event, there was a general agreement to further develop the Oxford-Berlin connection through the continuance of our conversations.

Juan I. Neves-Sarriegui,  
Oxford DPhil Candidate in History



The Oxford-Berlin Joint Doctoral Workshop

# Political Crisis in Peru



On 9 November 2020, under a controversial interpretation of a constitutional article, the Congress of Peru sanctioned the impeachment of former President Martín Vizcarra. This action triggered historic protests that would ultimately lead to the resignation of the newly elected president and his cabinet, followed by elections a week later. Considering the significance of this subject, the LAC and the Oxford Peruvian Society organized a virtual seminar on 1 December in order to address the challenges and consequences triggered by the upheaval.

The political discussants for this event were John Crabtree, research associate at the LAC, and political scientists Cynthia Sanborn and Santiago Mariani (both Universidad del Pacífico). The occasion was moderated by the Oxford Peruvian Society, represented by LAC MSc student, Fernando Ramírez-Gastón Lecca. The seminar attracted around 100 virtual attendees, defying the limitations the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed in student life.

John Crabtree gave an initial presentation of the political situation in Peru. He stressed the longstanding hostility of public opinion towards Congress, the extreme weakness of the Peruvian party system, and the legacies of corruption in public life, as well as the consequences of the recent turbulence. Subsequently, Cynthia Sanborn and Santiago Mariani discussed the immediate causes that led to the ousting of former President Vizcarra, as well as the role of protests in the fall of the government of Manuel Merino (which lasted only 5 days).

Several questions arose from the audience, mainly asking the discussants about the possible consequences of the crisis on the Peruvian elections of April 2021, as well as the possibility of new electoral opportunities that might capture the support of the demonstrators. Further topics that surfaced referred to the role and composition of the bicentennial generation, as well as the part that international actors played in the recognition of the de facto government of Manuel Merino.

The seminar proved to be a great opportunity to analyse and exchange opinions regarding Peru's political future, as well as addressing some of the chief difficulties that result from the lack of strong institutions and political parties in the country.

Fernando Ramírez-Gastón Lecca



# MSc Students

## 2020-2021



### Fernando Ramirez Gaston Lecca

Fernando is a student in the MSc program, born and raised in Lima, Peru. He graduated in Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, followed by a master's degree in Diplomacy and International Relations at the Diplomatic Academy of Peru, giving the valedictory address in front of the President of the Republic. He also carried out an internship at the Peruvian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

For the last two years he has worked as a diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, getting involved with the latest Peruvian presence on the Security Council and working with the Support Group for Repatriations, which has overseen the return of more than 40,000 Peruvians following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. His research focuses on the ways in which the Peruvian foreign service could properly address the challenges posed by the current crisis of the liberal world order, and the role of regional collaboration.



### Maddy Wattles

My name is Maddy and I am from the UK. I recently graduated from Durham University where I studied Modern Languages & Cultures, specialising in French and Spanish. As part of my undergraduate year abroad I completed a five-month internship in Chile, working for an oil and gas company. Travelling between the poor and wealthy districts of Santiago whilst on my commute prompted me to investigate patterns of class-consciousness in Chilean society. Inseparable from these questions of class, I found, were the despotic days of Pinochet and, perhaps more significantly, the country's 300-year colonial subjugation. Throughout my MSc at the Latin American Centre, I look forward to deepening my socio-political understanding of the continent as a whole. Ultimately, I hope to better understand the relationship between colonialism and present-day Latin America.



### Zhihao Lai

I am a postgraduate student at St Cross College. I was born in China, where I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at Shanghai International Studies University. I have also studied at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Guadalajara in Mexico, before sending a couple of years working in the energy and telecommunications sectors in Latin America, mostly in Chile.

My passion for Latin America formed long ago. During recent years, I have been to most Latin American countries, and the unusual kindness and warmth of the people I have met throughout my journeys, as well as their vibrant cultures, have kindled my affection for the region. In my postgraduate studies I want to deepen my understanding of the development of Latin America and undertake some research regarding the societal and economic development of the region. My hobbies include learning new languages, running, traveling, and exploring new cultures.



### Sarasa Niikura

Born and raised in a small beach town in Japan, I remember myself staring at the infinite horizon, hoping to travel to the other side of the ocean someday. My dream in a way came true when I first travelled to Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Peru as a volunteer interpreter of an NGO-organized cruise, visiting social and environmental organizations across the world. After completing my bachelor's degree in Environmental Economics, I backpacked across the region, where I became deeply fascinated by the diverse cultures, people, and beautiful nature.

I am sure this year will provide a great opportunity for me to deepen my understanding of the region, with a special emphasis on the environment and sustainable development.



### Maria Izabel Bahia

I was born and raised on the coast of São Paulo, Brazil, where I completed a BA in History. My interest in Latin America is a product of my personal experience, I grew up witnessing Brazil's inequality and poverty, which deeply inspired and motivated my academic pursuits. After moving to the UK, I decided to complete another BA in International Relations at the University of Birmingham, where I discovered an interest in political economy. I found that economic policy is at the heart of development strategies for developing countries, and it can be used to mitigate systemic market failure and alleviate human suffering.

My dissertation applies a multi-method approach, combining survey analysis, social media data and literature review to explain support for Jair Bolsonaro. According to the data, authoritarian tendencies at the individual level and anti-PT sentiment are the best predictors of the Bolsonaro voter. Right-wing ideology, contrary to expectations and prior studies, played a secondary role.



### Martin Barakso

I am originally from Vancouver, Canada. I studied at Princeton University, graduating with a BA in History in 2016. For the last four years I have worked in mineral exploration, and it was during this time that my interest in Latin America developed. My main area of interest surrounds the challenges mining presents to indigenous people in the Andean countries. I plan to use my time at the LAC to further understand the disparities between indigenous groups, corporate interests, and various levels of government in Latin America, but also to explore lasting solutions. I also look forward to expanding my understanding of the region's inequality, history, and development. After Oxford, I intend on pursuing a career in the Pan-American mining sector, focusing on improving equality in the extraction of natural resources.



### Arlette Ayoroa Martinez

With mixed family roots from Paraguay and Bolivia, Arlette was raised in Ciudad del Este. She is a trained lawyer and psychologist, with qualifications from the Universidad Americana and the Universidad Nacional del Este respectively. Her diverse background and early involvement with different non-profit organizations ignited her interest in the region's development. Prior to Oxford, she worked as a junior lawyer and clinical psychologist. She has also held a variety of public sector roles, both at the Labour Court and the Ministry of Women Affairs in Paraguay and the Organization of American States in Washington D.C.

Her research aims to understand behavioural change at a community level through the lenses of cognitive psychology and behavioural science. In particular, she is interested in how tools from psychology may be useful in policy design, and how such tools could be used to help reduce poverty and inequality.



### Humberto Juarez Rocha

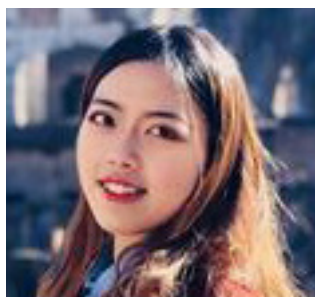
Humberto hails from Mexico City and grew up in Houston, Texas, where he developed an interest in writing and international relations after hundreds of border crossings. As an undergraduate at Harvard, he majored in Social Studies with a focus on Latin America, and wrote his thesis on the human and structural dynamics within the armed forces before, during and after the 1976-1983 dictatorship. His research interests lie at the intersection of the influence of autocratic rulers on institutions, politics, the military, and comedy. His MSc dissertation centres on the informal sector in Mexico City, and the ways in which COVID-19 has affected the daily lives of workers throughout 2020 and 2021. Before Oxford, he worked for *Forbes*, *The Stamford Advocate*, and *The Yomiuri Shimibun*, and plans to continue in journalism after his studies.



### Juanita Barreto Monje

After high school in Bogotá, Colombia I moved to the UK to attend the University of St. Andrews, graduating with a degree in International Relations and Social Anthropology. During my undergraduate career, I carried out archival fieldwork in Brazil and London on 'Scots in the Amazon in the 19th century'. I also undertook an internship with justice-oriented think tank the Third Generation Project, looking at issues of representation, development, and human rights violations.

While at Oxford I hope to deepen my knowledge about the Latin American region, looking at issues of human rights, education access, and development. My project will promote participatory approaches committed to listening to those who embody experience through their daily lives as sources of knowledge and learning, especially aiming to bridge the cycles of exclusion and discrimination inherent in the urban-rural divide. My dissertation looks at what students' participation in the *Ser Pilo Paga* policy tells us about Colombia's attempt at widening university participation for low-income students. To this end, I undertook a qualitative analysis focusing on student experiences, perceptions, and needs regarding university support programmes at three universities in Bogotá, Colombia.



### Xiaoyu Zhang

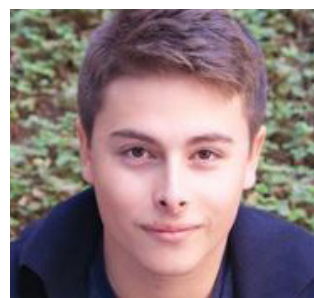
I am a postgraduate student at St Peter's College, having previously completed my undergraduate degree in Humanities at Central South University, China. I explored many different fields during my undergraduate career, including Spanish, economics, finance and mathematics, and have long been fascinated by connecting the dots across disciplinary boundaries. Before focusing on one discipline, I wish to establish a more holistic understanding in social sciences both theoretically and methodologically. The MSc program offers me a great opportunity to apply different angles to study Latin America.



### Luis Octavio Dos Santos Gouveia Junior

I was born in Brazil and, since high school have been interested in the Brazilian position in the world, both geographically and historically. Following this interest, I completed a BA in International Relations at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. There, throughout my degree, I started to develop a deep concern about peace and conflict studies. In this field of research, I focused primarily on cultural and structural violence in the suburbs of some of Brazil's largest cities, like Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, and on the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis. I hope to deepen my analyses of those local and national issues during the MSc, improving my comprehension of Latin American as a whole.

I also have a profound interest in popular literature, having already published one book of poems, influenced by the "Cordel" style, and contributing to several Brazilian poetry anthologies.



### Gabriel Moreno Whitehead

I was born in Colombia and have family from Cuba and Spain, so Latin American culture has always been a big part of my life. I recently completed an undergraduate degree in Business at Newcastle University, and with what I learnt there I believe that there are great opportunities in Latin America waiting to be seized. However, I felt that the LAC is the best place to first broaden and deepen my understanding of the area, whilst also meeting some of the most interesting peers and academics at Oxford. Previously I was a director of a fintech firm where I worked alongside many Latin American banks, whilst also working as an editor for *Latino Life* magazine in London. In my spare time, I can most likely be found playing sports, exploring the local pubs, or staying true to my Latin roots and listening to salsa.



# MSc Students

## 2020-2021



### Grace Morgan

My name is Grace and I'm from London. I'm a recent graduate from the University of Oxford, having completed a BA in History at St Anne's College. My undergraduate dissertation focused on an artistic collective established in 1968 by Mexico's leading artists in opposition to a state-sponsored exhibition organized alongside the Olympics, held in the capital that year. This year I am looking forward to broadening my knowledge of the region, and widening the scope of my academic abilities through interdisciplinary study.



### Jack Fenwick

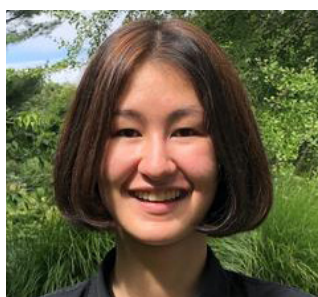
My name is Jack and I'm from the Cotswolds here in the UK. I studied Modern Languages (French and Spanish) at Durham University, with a semester at the University of Havana, and in my dissertation explored the 'transcultural' nature of Afro-Cuban literature. After graduating, I worked for one year in the Department for International Trade within the British Embassy, Santiago, before volunteering for a month at a state child protection agency in the San Jerónimo district of Cusco, Peru. More recently, I've been working for a London-based tech startup, overseeing market launches in Spain and Australasia. At the LAC I'm looking forward to broadening my understanding of inequality and development issues across the region, particularly in Chile in light of the 2019-20 protests.



### Juanita Ardila Hidalgo

I was born in Bogotá, Colombia. Before coming to Oxford, I did undergraduate studies in law and graduate studies on public policy as well as on development studies focusing on rural women. During the last six years, I worked in the public sector of Colombia, contributing to the societal reincorporation of former members of armed groups, and led projects for rural women.

My academic background and professional experience awakened my curiosity to understand the relationship between the social challenges of my country and the political and economic situation of the Latin American countries. I will mainly study the history of democracies in the region and how they have evolved into our current systems. In my free time, I enjoy painting.



### Isabel Bernhard

Originally from the US, I am entering the MSc program after graduating from Harvard College. As an undergraduate, I studied Social Studies, an interdisciplinary program of political science, social theory, history, and economics.

My interest in Latin America was sparked by a combination of coursework and an internship in the Argentine government after my freshman year. I returned two years later for fieldwork, and my bachelor's thesis analyzed how Argentina and Brazil's national nuclear agencies reflected civil-military relations after democratization.

My current research interests are still evolving, but tentatively relate to multinational corporations' human rights violations in Latin America. Through the MSc, I hope to broaden my regional knowledge and deepen my understanding of foreign investment and human rights issues.



### Johannes (Jan) Minke Contreras

I am Dutch-Ecuadorian but was mainly raised in Mexico. I currently hold a BSc in Governance, Economics and Development from Leiden University College and an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Over the last year, I worked as a Political and Communications Officer at the Embassy of Ecuador in Belgium and Mission to the European Union in Brussels.

My research interests are largely rooted in the intersection of foreign policy and development. I have researched how Latin American nations have managed to foster development at home through the employment of different foreign policy tools.

Additionally, I have researched democratic and institutional consolidation in Latin America focusing mainly on Ecuador. Specifically, I have examined how democratic mechanisms can be used to dismantle democracy itself.

In my free time I enjoy writing, discovering new food, and reading on urbanism.



### Julien Verdeaux

My name is Julien and I am half-French and half-Peruvian. Before coming to Oxford, I completed my BA in Humanities and Social Sciences at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po). For several years, I have wanted to pursue a career in Latin America, but it was not until my undergraduate studies in France that I fleshed out my plan and put it in motion. My main area of interest is Andean politics, in particular Peru, and building infrastructure for basic necessities in metropolitan and rural regions. I am beyond honored to take part in the MSc in Latin American Studies (with the help of the Saven European Scholarship) and am grateful that Oxford is providing me with the tools to deepen my knowledge and conduct research on a region I care so much about.



### Robyn Heitzman

My interest in Latin America began while volunteering in a women's refuge centre in Peru in 2016. I then went on to study for a BA in Politics and Hispanic Studies at Queen Mary University of London. During my undergraduate degree, I spent 9 months in Mexico, volunteering with an anti-human trafficking NGO. I participated in two projects: first, with an intervention programme designed to assist victims of human trafficking, and second, at the Las Agujas Migration Centre, in workshops aimed at detecting victims of trafficking. Since then, I have undertaken various internships dedicated to the regional monitoring of organised crime and public security in Latin America (with EMPRA and InSight Crime).

During my time at Oxford, my research has largely revolved around the impact of crime. My dissertation looks at the Brazilian penitentiary system, focusing on the emergence of criminal organisations, and whether restorative justice could be implemented on a nationwide scale in prisons. While at Oxford, I have been interning with the Igarapé Institute, helping to create a platform that centralises information related to the assistance of ex-convicts. After completing my degree, I will intern with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the regional office for Central America and the Caribbean.



### Sebastián Raphael Priego

I was born and raised in Mexico City, and will always feel a deeply rooted connection towards the Mexican "imagined community" and to Latin America at large. I am a conspicuous enthusiast of multidisciplinary approaches, and I believe that, to carry out valuable research, one needs to keep in mind how much history and people matter. I hold a BA in World Politics from Leiden University, and in my free time I enjoy laughing.



### Clorrie Yeomans

I began this year as an MSc student before later transferring to the MPhil course. Academically, this has been a very fruitful year for me. Coming from a humanities background, it has been an enriching experience to explore new disciplines through my Sociology and Human Rights papers. The Latin America Since Independence paper has deepened my comparative knowledge of the region and introduced me to countries that I had never studied in depth before, including Colombia and Brazil. Beyond our seminars, the Sociology film discussions with special guests also helped me to exchange with a network of people from the academic and professional spheres. Outside of the LAC, I have enjoyed my weekly Portuguese classes at the Language Centre.

Over the summer and the course of next year, I look forward to developing my thesis which focuses on some of the most overlooked minority groups in Latin America. I will be conducting digital ethnographies with gaucho and Romani (gypsy) communities in Argentina with the intention of building frameworks for studying nomadic cultures. Covid permitting, I hope to visit the University of Manchester in July to see how I could adapt their ROMANI Project in Europe to the Latin American context. Rest assured; I also have plenty of wine-drinking events up my sleeve for next year at the LAC!



### Lauren Mauney

I completed my BA in Politics and International Affairs, alongside Economics coursework, at Wake Forest University. With a background in human rights and an interest in finance and corporate law, I am interested in the intersection between the two fields. I hope to research corporate social responsibility within Latin America, to get a better understanding of how businesses can foster a respect for human rights through their business practices. In particular, I am keen to research how corporate finance itself can play a role in more concretely implementing the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights.



### Tomás Medina Mora Perez

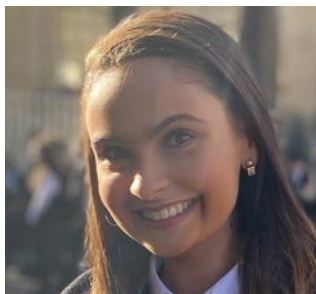
I was born in Mexico but have spent most of my life wandering the immense triangle between London, Mexico City, and Washington DC. When I began my undergraduate studies in history at UCL, I quickly realised that the strangest, most compelling, and most interesting region also happened to be, conveniently, the region of my birth: Latin America. Since then, my research interests have remained firmly rooted in modern Mexican history, with my focus primarily geared towards post-revolutionary state- and nation-building.





# MPhil Students

## Second Year MPHILS



### Victoria Bolaños Cohen

I recently graduated from Harvard College in Social Anthropology and Government. Living in various countries in Central America and the Caribbean sparked my interest in the region. I found these countries' different realities and cultures fascinating. During my two years in the MPhil program at the LAC, I focused on rehabilitation and reintegration programs for former gang members in El Salvador. Studying and working through the Covid Pandemic proved to be a challenge, but with the support of the department and my supervisor, it became one of the most enriching and educational experiences in my life.



### Louisa Wagner

Born and raised in Germany, I completed my BA in Politics and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz. During my time interning at the German embassy in Ecuador and at a political foundation in Mexico, I developed a deep fascination with the region's distinct development trajectories and contemporary challenges, particularly towards questions concerning the rule of law, state capacity, and violence.

My past academic work allowed me to place my focus on political economy and the relevance of institutions for development. This informed the writing of my dissertation analysing the influence of trade liberalisation through NAFTA on the democratisation process in Mexico. During my time at the Latin American Centre, I am focusing my research on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime in Latin American countries whilst hopefully also learning some rowing and getting to know as many different colleges and local secrets as possible.



### James Woodley

Having been born in the outskirts of Europe but grown up in the North East of England, I have always had an insatiable interest in how disparate social realities shape our identity, knowledge and understanding of the world, what we see and, similarly, how that can be so hidden through societal segregation and inequalities, phenomena I continually have striven to explore deeper. I hold a B.A. in Modern Languages (German and Spanish) from University College London, wherein my Latin American odyssey began upon enrolling at the Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Derecho for one semester. I then volunteered in the rural village of Santa María de Fé, southern Paraguay, before returning to the U.K. where I had the pleasure of engaging extensively with a plethora of bodies within London's Latin American community, such as Latin News Intelligence Research Ltd., Argentine-run Z.T.R. Radio, and the Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation. Most recently, I spent the last year working at the British Embassy in Quito, Ecuador. Throughout my time here at Oxford's Latin American Centre, I aim to analyse the paradox between a strong Paraguayan elite imposing a modernisation project and the continued dominance of Guaraní identity. More broadly, I intend to challenge assumptions around power disparities of the social pyramid in contemporary Latin American society and question the heteronormal within.



### Isabella Branco

I was born in Brazil but moved quite a bit as a child, completing my undergraduate degree in History and International Relations at the University of Cincinnati in the US. Despite having been out of the country of my birth for most of my life, Brazil remains squarely within my interests and I have discovered a passion for studying the Brazilian military dictatorship ('64-'85). I am specifically interested in the politics of memory, modern issues and attitudes towards democracy and human rights placed into the context of a country with authoritarian traditions, and specifically the way this manifests in attitudes of the Brazilian middle class. After completing my MPhil, I hope to go onto a DPhil to further study this topic.



### Maria Puolakkainen

I am driven by my curiosity for how the state shapes development outcomes through macroeconomic, tax, and social policies, and the upholding of the rule of law—not to forget my addiction to salsa dancing. After discovering my passion for development economics during my Philosophy, Politics, and Economics degree at Warwick, I pursued this in my econometric investigation on the impact of the natural resource curse on state capacities across Latin American countries, where I discovered high levels of variation across oil, gas, and mineral-dependent states.

I spent 2018-2019 travelling and working across Latin America. Following my experience as a consultant in providing healthcare and humanitarian aid to Venezuelan migrants in a Medellín-based NGO, I feel compelled to continue working in the development sector in the future. I have also worked in the private sector in London, learning a great deal about corporate governance, enterprise growth strategies, and reflecting on approaches for generating economic dynamism.

My first year at the Latin American Centre inspired me to question intra-state regional development inequalities in particular. In my MPhil research I am investigating the role of violent non-state actors on the provision of education and healthcare services in Colombian municipalities.



### Pablo Uribe Ruan

I was born and raised in Colombia, where I completed a double Bachelor of Arts in Law and Political Science at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. After graduation, I worked with several human rights organizations and wrote about transitional justice, forced displacement, and land restitution for victims in Colombia. Looking for other narratives, I decided to explore journalism in October 2015. Since then, I have covered several issues in Latin America and the world, such as presidential elections in the US, Brazil, and Venezuela, as well as criminal organizations, environmental issues, and democracy in the region.

# MPhil Students

## Second Year MPHILS



### Matthias Brickel

Matthias is an MPhil student at Exeter College, focusing on International Relations, Politics, and Economics at the Latin American Centre. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, and studied finance, economics, and foreign trade in Germany, the United States, Mexico, and Argentina. Prior to Oxford, he held different front office roles at a global investment bank in Munich and London. Following his entrepreneurial passion, he has obtained leadership roles in innovative and social start-ups as well as non-profit organisations with an international focus. In 2021, Matthias was appointed as a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum and its Oxford Hub. At Oxford, he is further developing his research on Mexico and the intersection between politics, economics, and organised crime. Matthias is a passionate athlete, competing with the Oxford University Triathlon Club and the Oxford University Swimming Club. His hobbies involve football, skiing, and scuba diving, as well as travels to exotic places and reading good books.



### Clément Bourg

I am a postgraduate student at St Cross College. Born and raised in the Paris region, I completed a Master of Science in Management at Essec Business School, before spending six years working for Airbus in Munich and Toulouse. Studying Latin America is an attempt to give a new orientation to my professional life, driven by my interest in the social sciences, my previous trips to the region, and my participation in the Oxford Summer School in 2018, where I studied democratisation in Latin America. During my time at Oxford, I intend to undertake research on Colombia during the National Front period. Apart from the library, you can find me trying new restaurants, “refaire le monde” in the pure French tradition, or listening to old hip hop songs.



### Carla Vila

Carla is from São Paulo, Brazil. She holds a BA in Public Administration from FGV EAESP Getulio Vargas Foundation and has also undertaken graduate studies in Political Science at FESPSP School of Sociology and Political Science of São Paulo. She has seven years of experience in public administration, government relations and in the non-profit sector, including work conducted in the Secretariat of Education of the State of São Paulo and the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil. Her research as an MPhil student focusses on the changing meaning of national symbols in street protests in Brazil since re-democratization. By studying the use of national symbols, she aims to better understand the evolution of nationalism in the country..

## MPHIL THESES

### Summaries of dissertations by our MPhil Students – A Selection

The use of national symbols in street protests in re-democratised Brazil: changes in meaning and disputes  
**Carla Vila, MPhil Student (2019-21)**

In my thesis, I aim to understand how the use and meaning of official national symbols – namely, the national anthem, the national flag, and the national colours – has changed over time in the main street protests that have occurred since the process of re-democratisation of Brazil, as well as the disputes over these symbols. I analysed two sets of protests: the first include Diretas Já (1983-1984), Caras Pintadas (1992), and Jornadas de Junho (2013), when national symbols were associated with democracy, citizenship and social rights. The second consists of the protests against the government of then-president Dilma Rousseff (2015-2016), when the same symbols became associated with right and far-right groups and corresponding agendas. By analysing the use and meaning of national symbols in street protests, I ultimately aim to investigate how nationalism has evolved over time in contemporary Brazil.

The war on drugs – why numbers matter. Politicisation and economics of illegal drug markets in Mexico.  
**Matthias Brickel, MPhil Student (2019-21)**

My thesis contributes to the political economy of organised crime and, specifically, to the analysis of illegal drug markets and organised crime groups in Latin America and Mexico. It disentangles the incentives of political and institutional actors to politicise drug statistics in the process of policymaking vis-à-vis the War on Drugs in Mexico. Firstly, it examines pressing issues related to this conflict, such as violence and organised crime escalations fuelled by alleged economic superiority of drug trafficking organisations, due to the market size. Secondly, it presents theoretical models of drug market estimations and critically analyses them from a qualitative as well as quantitative perspective, resulting in enhancement strategies. Evidence-based policy decisions require quantifiable estimates of the illegal drug markets and, thus, the importance of such figures is key to accurate political decisions (e.g., resource allocations and funding). Furthermore, the thesis explores innovative methods and policy prescriptions to research illicit drug markets.



# MPHIL THESES

## Summaries of dissertations by our MPhil Students – A Selection

The dyadic relationship between an increasingly stratified mestizo 'ethnoscape' and the dominance of a national identity, or Paraguayidad, in contemporary Paraguay

**James Woodley**

My thesis aims to explore the dyadic relationship between an increasingly stratified mestizo 'ethnoscape' and the dominance of a national identity, or Paraguayidad, in contemporary Paraguay. Paraguayan mestizaje is no longer limited to conceptions of a nation composed only of mestizo and white ethnic groups, but rather recognises peoples of African and Indigenous descent, Brasiguayos, et al. How do minorities come to foster or reject Paraguayan national identity? Moreover, how does rising diversity impact social cohesion?

Through the use of census data, multidimensional global indices' aggregate data, and individual-level microdata, I construct my own Multi-level Regression and Post-stratification (MRP) model, treating each Paraguayan sub-population at the most granular level. The thesis intends to construct accurate, nationwide estimates of ethnic group indicators of cohesive forces – such as a sense of ethnic and national belonging, pride, and attachment to Paraguayan values; and indicators of divisive forces and fragmenting tendencies – such as socioeconomic status, generalised trust, and political disconnect.

My work is supplemented by qualitative research predicated on open-ended interviews and theoretical approaches to the Paraguayan lived experience.

A Way Out: An Integrated Multidimensional Approach for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Gang Members in El Salvador.

**Victoria Bolaños Cohen**

When dealing with the problem of gang violence, the Salvadoran state has been known to engage mostly in repression strategies, including high policing, and zero tolerance policies. However, these zero tolerance policies have not had the intended effects and rather than helping to reduce violence, have exacerbated it. While repressive strategies help address one part of the issue, they do not address other important aspects. The government has not engaged as much in prevention, rehabilitation, or reintegration programs. The shortage in state programs that offer help to gang members who want to leave their gangs and reincorporate themselves into society after prison limits gang members' opportunities and prompts the question: What is the role of the Salvadoran state in helping gang members leave their gangs alive? And thus, how and why do exit strategies for gang members in El Salvador work?

The Impact of COVID-19 on Crime in Latin America – an Empirical Analysis at the City Level

**Louisa Wagner**

This thesis follows a quasi-experimental format, using COVID-19 as an external shock to research the association of income levels with crime rates across Latin America. I argue that worsening economic conditions significantly impact the propensity to commit crime, which provides support for the economic theory of crime, assuming utility-maximisation on the individual level. This paper presents a novel take on the subnational variation in crime rates across major cities.

Firstly, establishing the adverse impact of COVID-19 through variations in lockdowns and reduced purchasing power, the economic circumstances constitute the independent treatment variable. Secondly, the spatial variation of the exogenous COVID-19 shock on the dependent variable of crime is tested empirically within and across cities. Importantly, homicides, violent crime, and property crimes are disaggregated.

If economic conditions influence crime, this represents an important argument for policymakers against zero-tolerance approaches, frequently carrying detrimental consequences for human rights. Instead, policies ranging from youth education and re-integration of felons to social policies guaranteeing basic living standards must take centre stage.

### Other MPhil Theses

**Clement Bourg,**

'Institutional Innovation under the first National Front Government to address issues of peace and issues of justice in Colombia after La Violencia (1958-1962)'

**Isabella Cantoni Branco,**

'Mothers without motherhood, women without womanhood: Myths of motherhood, removable identities and the perception of militant mothers involved in resistance movements against the Brazilian Civil-Military Dictatorship (1964-1985)'

**Pablo Uribe Ruán,**

'The decrease in homicide rates in Bogotá (1993-2010)'

**Maria Puolakkainen**

MPhil thesis examines the role of violent non-state actors on the provision of education and healthcare services in Colombian municipalities.

## FORMER STUDENTS, THEIR TIME IN OXFORD AND THEIR CURRENT PROJECTS

Andreia Reis do Carmo,  
LAC MPhil alumna  
2013–2015

Interview by Humberto J. Rocha

I'm from Brazil and the LAC for me was the greatest experience I've had in my life. It was just spectacular. Being a Brazilian, most of us think that we would never get that far, and I think the battle to go to Oxford began way before being admitted to the MPhil. Being in Oxford and being a LAC student has completely changed my life. Being at one of the most prestigious universities in the world, you can see how science is made, how it's discussed, produced, and built. The network behind it is just amazing and it sticks with you for the rest of your life.

The LAC welcomes so many professors from Brazil and all over the world, and I was fortunate to meet a professor from Brazil who introduced me to anti-corruption law. I have always studied corruption, but this professor changed my life. I began further research of anti-corruption law and haven't stopped since. I am currently developing my Oxford thesis for my PhD at King's College London, looking to finish later this year.

Charlie Defries

I feel incredibly lucky to have had the chance to study for a year as an MSc student at the LAC. I had always had a keen interest in Latin America, which led me to spend 5 months working in a startup in Medellín, Colombia, and a further month travelling around Peru and Ecuador during my year abroad. My undergraduate degree in French and Spanish gave me an insight into the rich, vibrant, yet chequered past of the continent and its diverse countries and cultures, but left me wanting to fill in the gaps in my knowledge and delve into the region's political and economic history. Academically and personally, my year at the LAC was a hugely enriching experience, and piqued my interest in the societal and commercial institutions that Latin America has endeavoured, and at times struggled, to establish. This led me into my current career as an analyst at a boutique investment bank, where I am working on mergers and acquisitions in the financial institutions industry, and learning about the intricately interwoven insurance and financial sectors in the UK, Europe and the US. I hope to specialise in FinTech, and to eventually have the opportunity to work in Latin America again!

Julien Cartwright



I really enjoyed my time at the LAC. Coming from a humanities background I was eager to pick up social science skills to be more data-driven in my research. I still use the tricks & techniques acquired from this experience in my day to day as a Customer Success Manager. I speak to clients from a plethora of Latin American countries including Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Chile, and Brazil, and work with colleagues from all over the world. Without my experience at the LAC, this would have been a tall order.





Hamish Richardson  
MSc 2018–2019

Since leaving the LAC in June 2019, I've worked in private equity, built a video sharing app, and most recently founded an EdTech startup. I'm grateful to the awesome LAC teaching staff for bettering my analytical and inquisitive mind, providing me with a fantastic springboard into a diverse early career.

I founded my startup ScholarTribe earlier this year. It's a platform that connects organisations with academics for freelance projects. We're currently focussed on the areas of environment, sustainability, and climate change, however we'll be increasing this scope in the coming years. We hope to be working with academics from the LAC at some point!

There's a clear connection between my time at the LAC and the founding of ScholarTribe. The brilliant LAC teaching staff, including the impressive DPhil cohort, gave me an appreciation for scholarship and the knowledge leaders filling university departments around the world. This is the foundation of ScholarTribe, to bridge the gap between these knowledge leaders and the non-academic world.



Paula Melendez,  
MPhil 2014–2016

I received my MPhil in Latin American Studies in 2016, having spent two wonderful years at the LAC. In addition to broadening my understanding of the region's political economy and regionalism with the insightful teachings of Diego Sánchez-Ancochea and David Doyle, I had the opportunity to write my thesis under the supervision of Eduardo Posada-Carbó. I focused my research on Colombia's relationship to the League of Nations in the 1930s, which gave me an understanding into how independent states interacted and shaped the nascent international legal and governance framework in the interwar years. Having spent a fruitful summer between my first and second year researching in dusty archives in Bogotá and Geneva, I was fortunate enough to receive the Andrew Crawley Prize for my work. My interest in international relations and governance frameworks, strengthened by my thesis research, led me to apply to law school in the UK.

Four years on, I have now qualified as a lawyer and I am practicing in the field of international arbitration with a prominent international firm in their Geneva office. My practice includes investment treaty arbitration and commercial disputes, and my language skills and learnings of the Latin American region developed at the LAC have been a solid basis on which to build the foundations of a career in public international law and policy.





Dr Fiona Macaulay

As external examiner at the Latin America Centre, life has come full circle, back to where I did my MPhil in Latin American Studies and DPhil in politics. In 1991, when I arrived at the LAC, I wanted to expand my regional horizons. Although I had worked in Nicaragua in the 1980s, my supervisor, Alan Angell, a Chilean specialist, naturally directed my attention to that country, which was at the start of its democratic transition. My interest in Brazil was then sparked by classes and some lovely Brazilians on the course, so my doctoral research became comparative, on the women's movement and political parties in Chile and Brazil. Three days after handing in my thesis, I started work at Amnesty International as their Brazil researcher, a dream job that immersed me in both the horrors of investigating gross human violations and the byzantine intricacies of the criminal justice system. That field experience outside academia was fundamental to my later career. It provided me with a network of practitioner and academic friends and colleagues, and helped me to specialise in the politics of security and justice sector reform -- judicial reform, domestic violence legislation, police accountability, human rights, and prison reform. In 2000 I returned to a post-doctoral position at the Centre for Brazilian Studies, which brought me back to St Antony's and the Latin America Centre, combined with a part-time teaching post at the Institute for Latin American Studies in London. From there, I moved to a permanent lectureship at the University of Bradford.

Dr Fiona Macaulay is Associate Professor in the Department of Peace Studies and International Development at the University of Bradford. She is Chair of the Editorial Board (and former editor) of the *Journal of Latin American Studies*. An associate of the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety, she has just published *Transforming State Responses to Feminicide: Women's Movements, Law and Criminal Justice Institutions in Brazil* (Emerald Press) and a training manual for Brazilian police on understanding and tackling gender-based violence.

## RECOGNIZED DOCTORAL STUDENT

Camilo Arango Duque,  
recognized doctoral  
student, TT 21

I am currently a recognized doctoral student at the Latin American Centre, working under the supervision of Eduardo Posada Carbó. My research project focuses on the Comisión Corográfica (1850 - 1859) in Nueva Granada, an expedition launched to explore the national territory within the context of the republic, in an attempt to rediscover natural resources and use them for the development of the country.

Studying these months at Oxford have been a unique experience. Despite all the obstacles of the pandemic, I have been able to visit the Bodleian Library and read specialized books and papers relevant to my doctoral thesis. Having the opportunity of periodical discussions about my work with Eduardo first via Teams and then in the garden of the LAC has been a fruitful experience. The administrative staff and all the LACs team have been truly supportive and kind.

In the middle of these uncertain times, my stay at the LAC was an academic term of the highest standard and an unforgettable life experience.







Felipe Hernández

I hold a master's degree in Anthropology and a PhD in History and Political Science from the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris. I am currently a researcher at the Reconstitution programme of the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. My interests revolve around the intersections of civil society, left and right-wing populism, the politics of ethnicization, and the transformations of social ties in post-conflict situations. My work at Oxford aims to build bridges between the methodology and literature of anthropology, sociology and history, and is deeply invested in transregional and global entanglements, in particular those of Latin America and Southeastern Europe. As a visitor at the LAC, I am conducting research about the nexus between populism, civil society and social marginalization in the two regions – both places where liberal democratization processes have been deeply marked by hybrid governances.

Andrew Paxman, CIDE, Mexico

While at the LAC I've pursued two projects: a book on the history of the Mexican press and a research paper on the impact of missionary educators. The former is under contract with the University of North Carolina Press and surveys freedom of the press in modern Mexico, which accelerated under President Carlos Salinas (1988-94) and arguably reached a pinnacle under Vicente Fox (2000-06). Since then, press freedoms have been constrained as presidents have co-opted papers and portals, via extravagant ad buys or bullying rhetoric, and as criminal gangs and corrupt officials have had inconvenient reporters killed. In February, I presented some of my findings with the paper 'Why Does Mexico Have so Many Newspapers? A Historical Accounting'. The second project concerns the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), which brought bilingual education to dozens of Mexico's indigenous towns between the 1930s and the 1970s. SIL has been much studied but never in a quantified fashion, and my research seeks to gauge impact on literacy and disposable income by examining census data as well as descriptive accounts. This project formed the basis for my May seminar at the LAC: 'Bilingual Education among Indigenous Mexicans: Missionary Activity and Social Impact, 1935-1960'.



Renata Barbosa

Renata Barbosa is currently a researcher at Maastricht University, where she teaches and manages a research project. She holds a PhD in criminal law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, having defended her thesis in 2019. Her research focuses on the analysis of the concept of political crimes, and she has published articles on the topics of amnesty, transitional justice, and international criminal justice in both Brazilian and international journals. She is a member of the editorial team of Oxford Transitional Justice Research and of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Penal Law.

# Top Five Places to Drink South American Wine in Oxford

From crisp Sauvignon Blancs with a drop of ambience, to floral Torrontés and culinary finesse, Oxford holds the diversity of South America in its glass. First-year M.Phil. student Clorrie Yeomans has been swirling around the city to offer us the latest squeeze on her top five places to drink South American wine.

## The Plough at 38

The Plough at 38 seamlessly blends tradition with innovation. It first opened in 1656, making this city-centre pub one of Oxford's most historic taverns. Today, The Plough at 38 prides itself on its forward-thinking wine list, where the New World shares the spotlight with the Old. It is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxed drink, with entry-level wines available by the glass. These include an easy-drinking Malbec from Mendoza and a fruit-forward house Sauvignon Blanc from Chile, both of which offer excellent value for money. The premium South American wines (available by the bottle only) elevate The Plough at 38's wine list off the beaten track of Oxford's wine scene and are best savoured over dinner in the restaurant. My favourite pairings are twofold: the mussels in white wine sauce marry perfectly with the balanced herby, floral and fruity Albariño from Argentina. A more classic pairing would be a juicy steak drizzled with chimichurri washed down with a glass of rich and earthy Malbec, also from Argentina.

## Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill

Marco Pierre White's steakhouse is located in the Jury's Inn on the fringes of the city centre. There are many contenders on the wine list that are bold enough to take on a mouthwatering steak. For me, the front runners are the Malbecs from Mendoza's high-altitude Uco Valley, with their fresh acidity and dark fruit notes wrapped around the succulent

tannins. The Oxford team will be happy to recommend a wine to suit your individual tastes while discussing their experiences travelling around South America.

## The Market Cellar Door

The Market Cellar Door is Oxford's tiniest wine bar tucked away in the historic Covered Market. This hidden gem aspires to open the gates to the viticultural world with affordable wines which can be consumed at home or in situ (for a small corkage fee). Starting with some single-varietal reds from Argentina and Chile, the owners are keen to grow their South American selection with a focus on sustainable and organic wines. This is the ideal place to begin your journey in wine tasting. Why not take a tour around the market to experiment with some local food and wine pairings? The seafood platters from Pershore Seafoods are perfectly accompanied with a crisp and citrusy white wine.

## The Oxford Wine Café

The two Oxford Wine Cafés, located in Jericho and Summertown, are a must-visit for oenophiles striving to expand their South American palate! The *criolla* (native) grape varieties, such as the Argentinean Torrontés and Chilean País (Mission), are a rare find. At the top price end lies the Viñedo Chadwick: an award-winning Ultra-Premium Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile's Maipo Valley. The Oxford Wine Group also encompasses several wine shops dotted around Oxford, on Turl Street, Little Clarendon Street,

and Botley Road, where you can attend their tastings or wine school. While your average Oxford geeks go to the Bodleian, wine geeks go to Oxford Wine!

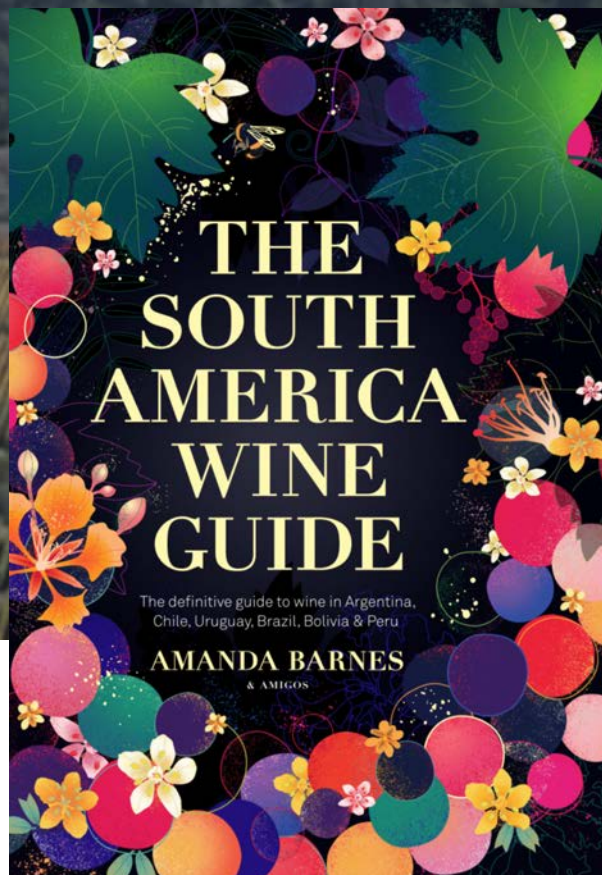
## Grape Minds

Grape Minds is an independent wine merchant in Summertown established by two adventurous young oenophiles. This approachable wine hub stocks a variety of bottles to suit all budgets (including half bottles). Currently, their South American selection features wines from Argentina and Chile, including some grape varieties which are harder to find, such as Tannat and Carménère. The team are now digging into the depths of South America and branching out to less common wine regions and countries. The shop also sells luxury cheeses and hosts regular themed tastings, including for South American wine.

*This is a mere snapshot of Oxford's ever-expanding wine scene. While our trips to South America may be on hold, the magic of wine is to be treasured. Next time you take a tour around Oxford, why not allow yourself to be transported from the shores of the Pacific to the peak of the Andes through a glass or two of vino?*







## Interview with South American Wine Expert, Amanda Barnes

First-year MPhil student Clorrie Yeomans interviews award-winning British wine and travel journalist and editor Amanda Barnes to uncork her recent publication, *The South America Wine Guide*. Amanda is an expert in South American wine and wine regions and is currently studying to become a Master of Wine. Her book includes the most comprehensive database of wine production in South America to date, alongside new maps and detailed region guides for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay. Clorrie has been working at the South America Wine Guide as an author and intern since June 2019. She welcomed Amanda to the LAC at the virtual tasting and book launch back in March, leaving us feeling thirsty to find out more...

### **C: Why did you decide to dedicate your wine career to South America?**

A: Well, I'm still only 12 years into my wine career so I hope there's more to my career left! But I think South America was an inspirational place to start. The wine regions of South America are going through a revolution at the moment and evolving at a rapid pace with incredible leaps in quality but also a great understanding and respect for heritage and tradition. It's thrilling to be there, witness and be part of such a great tide of change - and be able to communicate it to the rest of the world, which is only just waking up to the brilliance of South American wine.

### **C: What were your reasons for writing *The South America Wine Guide*?**

A: When I came to South America in 2009, there weren't really any great guides in English to the wine. So, on a selfish level, I wrote the guide I always wanted to read or have myself! South America is still a relatively untapped wine continent and certainly underappreciated beyond its frontiers, and so I really hope that this book will help and encourage wine lovers around the world to delve into the incredible wines, cultures, and regions of South America, and act as

a reference that wine producers and wine families can proudly use as their own to communicate the importance and legacy of their regions and wine heritage.

### **C: What role did interdisciplinary research play in the creation of *The South America Wine Guide*?**

A: A huge role! It's an interdisciplinary work at its heart. We are combining history, geography, biology, geology, cartography, culture, sensorial appreciation, and travel experiences into one guide, and I've consulted with over 150 researchers to do so... That's the thing about wine... Most people only think wine is simply the experience of drinking what's in the glass, but everything behind that glass is an overwhelming interlacing of disciplines, histories, people, nature and, to some degree, luck. So this book has required all of these research areas too. And a fair bit of wine tasting!

### **C: What are your future plans now that the book is published?**

A: Sell it! And get people reading about and enjoying South American wine. South America has had a rough ride in the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, and so I really hope

that the timing of bringing this book out now can encourage more wine drinkers to take up the mantle of championing, buying and ultimately enjoying South American wine, and in doing so will help the producers and wine families of South America recover and continue to strengthen their legacy as incredible and heroic wine producers.

**C: Thank you, Amanda, for sharing your pioneering project with *Horizontes* readers. We hope to welcome you to the LAC in person to enjoy some South American wine together. Cheers to your first book!**

The South America Wine Guide is available to purchase now at:  
<https://southamericawineguide.com/product/south-america-wine-guide-first-printed-edition/>



# Interview with Caleu's *Huaso* Winemaker, Nelson Villanueva

First-year MPhil student, Clorrie Yeomans, interviews Nelson Villanueva, a *huaso* winemaker from Chile. Nelson is involved in a Community Engagement project at the Caleu Valley, in the rural county of Til Til, which aims to provide training and employment for locals while protecting and preserving the natural environment. Their boutique winery is situated at a 1,200m altitude above sea level and is a magical place where young members of the local athletics club run and horses gallop around the vines. The project is the brainchild of Oxford alumnus Álvaro González, who left his home country of Chile during the tough years of the 1970s to read for an MSc in International Relations at the London School of Economics. González then became a DPhil candidate in Political Sciences at St Antony's College, Oxford University. For years, Álvaro has welcomed Oxford students to Caleu to work at the primary school there and discover the delights of Chilean wine! Let's find out more from Nelson about how him and Álvaro are changing Caleu, and the world, one grape at a time...



Nelson and Álvaro

## **C: What is the importance of wine in Caleu?**

N: When I became aware of the intense effort and love that goes into winemaking, I wanted to discover more. For *huasos*, wine bridges the gap between our culture and the outside world. In terms of the terroir, traditionally wine was not produced in Caleu and today, there are still only two vineyards in the neighbourhood. Both the terroir and the climate are ideal for producing Malbec and this is the main grape variety that we grow at our vineyard, alongside a small quantity of Sauvignon Blanc.

## **C: What do you like most about working in wine?**

N: I love the way of life in the countryside and the freedom that it entails. I'm a rebel... I don't like following the rules of modern-day life! I like living in harmony with the planet and without damaging the environment. My winemaking philosophy dovetails with that of my everyday life... I produce small and sustainable quantities of organic wine. My heart is full only when I manage to strike a balance between my wine production and the natural environment.

## **C: Can you tell us about the relationship between wine and your social projects?**

N: Our vision is social, rather than

commercial. We started an athletics club for young people in Caleu. One of the sports on offer is cross country and the young people enjoy running around the vineyards and being surrounded by the vines. For Álvaro and I, it's fundamental that we include children and young people and that we help them to learn because soon, they will be the adults of our village. When children go to school, they can lose their connection with their local culture and identity. Sports competitions, wine production and horses are all valuable aspects of our local identity, and mean that when these children talk about Caleu, they feel a sense of pride. We also teach young people about the importance of protecting our natural environment. Caleu is home to an oak forest which cannot be exploited by businesses; it is protected land that belongs to the local community.

## **C: How has the 2021 harvest been going for you?**

N: This year, there has been a lot of drought and we have had a large number of birds, but that's nature for you! I took the painful decision to nurture the vines and keep the plants alive, while allowing the birds to eat the grapes. Due to the pandemic, I have many friends around Chile who have dozens of horses or cows and they have had to decide how many they can save. The same

thing happened to us with our vines. I have nurtured each plant in a special way and I planted each and every one of them with great care. Vines are very grateful plants and they need to be guided so that they grow properly.

This year, we have taken the painful decision not to produce a vintage. In these unprecedented circumstances on a global level, one must ask: 'Is what I'm doing okay?'. We all need to do our bit and for our part, we refrain from using aerosols or chemicals in our wine production.

## **C: Thank you to you and Álvaro for sharing your inspirational initiative with Horizontes. Let's raise a glass to your work, which captures winemaking's profound spirit and transformative potential!**

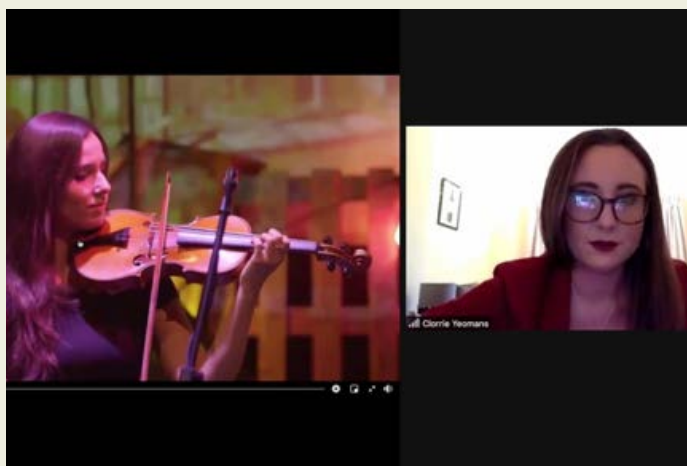
Interview translated from the original Spanish into English by Clorrie Yeomans.

Find out more about Atlético Caleu (Caleu Athletics Club):  
<https://www.atleticocaleu.cl/web/>



## Virtual wine tasting

On 26 March, the LAC invited award-winning wine journalist, Amanda Barnes, to lead a wine tasting and present her new book, *The South America Wine Guide*. The virtual event was attended by LAC students, members and affiliates as well as members of the wider public. During the event, Amanda explained how she created the most expansive database on South American wine production to date through fieldwork in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. Amanda demonstrated the value of interdisciplinary research for her project which involved collaborating with winemakers, historians, cartographers and geologists. The guests participated in an interactive wine tasting led by Amanda before engaging in a Q&A session. The event was organised and chaired by first-year MPhil student and contributing author for the *The South America Wine Guide*, Clorrie Yeomans. The session was supported by funding from the LAC.



First-year MPhil student, Clorrie Yeomans, opening the event with music from *Classico Latino*.



Wine writer, Amanda Barnes, presenting her new book *The South America Wine Guide*.

## Timo Schaefer on his

Timo Schaefer

Arriving at the LAC in the middle of a pandemic meant that my research plans (like those of so many people at Oxford) had to undergo some adjustments. One of my principal research projects – a life history of the indigenous social leader Raúl Gatica from the state of Oaxaca – requires me to conduct interviews and visit archives in Mexico, and that hasn't been possible. While the investigation has stalled, however, I was able to draw on material from previous research trips to complete an article manuscript on Gatica's childhood. That article aims to offer a glimpse into the reproduction of social power in Cold-War Mexico in



# first year at the LAC

intimate childhood spaces: the home, the schoolyard, and the store and household of the elite family where Gatica for a few months lived and worked as a servant. The manuscript also seeks to explore how Gatica's memories of growing up poor came to inform his political militancy. What was it about the experience of childhood poverty that led this boy from the provincial town of Tlaxiaco to challenge – at great risk to his life – Oaxaca's authoritarian political establishment? During the last year I presented papers about this research project at the Oxford LAC main seminar series, the Rutgers University Latin American Center, and at a workshop organized by the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies.

To make up for my inability to carry out fieldwork, I also turned to research I could advance with locally available sources. One of the resulting investigations derives from interests I first developed while writing my Ph.D. thesis and first book, which is about the history of popular legal culture in post-independence Mexico. The new project attempts to establish conversations between the post-colonial histories of Mexico and other Latin American republics. At the beginning of Hilary Term I successfully applied for a grant from the British Academy to hold a conference on the social history of law in post-colonial Latin America. The grant will allow me to invite 16 UK, US, and Latin American academics to Oxford in October 2022. The conference papers will be submitted to the *Proceedings of the British Academy*, to be considered for publication as an edited volume. I also completed a half-finished book chapter intended for an edited volume titled *Companion to the Legal History of Latin America* and edited by Matthew Mirow and Victor Uribe-Uran. My chapter gives an overview of the new laws Latin America's post-colonial nation states passed in the century after independence and explores the legal infrastructure that converted those laws into real-life rights and duties for Latin American citizens. At Oxford I was able to read more widely for this chapter than I had previously done, and the final draft I sent to the editors has benefitted enormously from the LAC's fantastic library.

Another investigation on which I was able to make some progress took me further afield from my previous research areas. For this investigation I tried to imagine the moment, on 25 September 1828, shortly before midnight, when a group of conspirators entered Colombia's government palace and made their way to the living quarters of Simón Bolívar, intending to kill him. I had arrived at Oxford with the idea of writing a book, for a general audience, on the history of the Latin American utopian imagination. But the decision to focus that book's first chapter on Bolívar – and in particular

on the 1828 assassination plot – was influenced by the printed primary sources I found at the Bodleian library. Those sources include Bolívar's Correspondencia íntima with Manuela Sáenz (his lover who on 25 September famously stood up to the conspirators, giving the Liberator time to escape through a window) and the legal proceedings against the would-be assassins (*Causas y memorias de los conjurados del 25 de septiembre de 1828*). In my chapter I want to describe the September conspiracy as a hinge moment in Latin America's modern history. In contrast to previous plots against Bolívar's life, this time around the conspirators were acting not for the preservation of colonialism but for the defence of their country's newly won freedom, which they believed Bolívar was threatening. The plot therefore marks the definitive end of the romance of national emancipation. The plotters were conspiring, a witness later swore he had heard one of them mutter, because “Este viejo Bolívar ha dado en [ser] muy tirano y lo hemos de joder.”

Apart from doing my best to advance my research agenda, I was able to get to know Oxford students, though in most cases only through the medium of MS Teams. I supervised four of the LAC's MSc Dissertations and taught a course on modern Mexican history for the History Faculty and a course on organized crime in Latin America for the Latin American Centre. Lastly, I led two conversations with leading experts on Mexican history as part of the LAC's Latin American History seminar series: a conversation about the conquest of Mexico with Stefan Rinke from the Freie Universität Berlin and Camilla Townsend from Rutgers University, and a conversation about the Mexican-American War with Peter Guardino from Indiana University Bloomington.



# Conference: The Second Short Wave of Democratisation in Latin America: 1943–1963



Professor Martin Conway delivering his Keynote Address 'Short wave or sea change? Democratisation in Western Europe and Latin America, 1944–1963'.

In the week that this edition of *Horizontes* goes to print, we look forward to virtually hosting this TORCH-funded two day conference, featuring an esteemed and diverse series of panellists addressing a hitherto somewhat understudied element of Latin America's twentieth century trajectory.

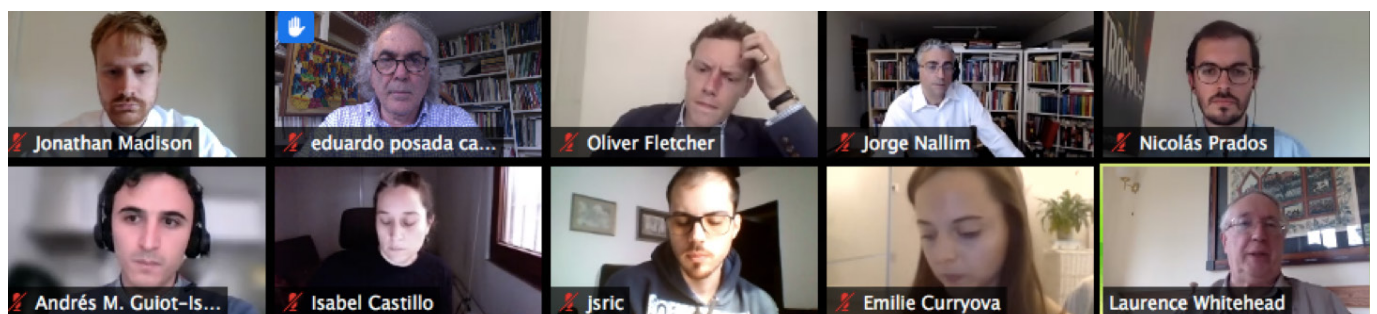
The conference aims to examine what Samuel Huntington referred to as the 'second short wave' of democracy in Latin America. In this twenty-year period, thirteen countries in the region underwent democratic transitions, significantly outpacing the number of nations that remained under authoritarian rule. Although most experienced regime reversals in the following decades, Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela remained stable democracies at least until the late twentieth century.

During the course of three panel discussions and a keynote speech to be delivered by Oxford's Martin Conway, we hope to shed key insights, not only on our understanding of how and why democracy succeeded or failed; but also on the very definition of democracy, its language, limits, and relationship with other issues such as development or modernization. Welcoming scholars from across Europe and the Americas, we hope for the conference to serve as a springboard for a wider network of interested researchers and scholars, to be coordinated under the banner of Democracy in Latin America Past and Present (DLAPP).

Conference organizers: Oliver Fletcher, Emilie Curryova, Nicolás Prados, and Andrés Guiot Isaac.



Kathryn Sikkink delivering her paper 'Latin American Struggles for Human Rights in the Context of the Cold War'



Jonathan Madison, Jorge Nállim, Isabel Castillo and Laurence Whitehead presented papers at the conference on the 'Second short wave'. Also in the picture the conference organisers, Oliver Fletcher, Nicolás Prados, Andrés Guiot-Isaac and Emilie Curryova.

# Dexnell Peters and his work on the Greater Southern Caribbean

It has now been almost three years since I first came to Oxford as Bennett Boskey Fellow in Atlantic History 1700-1900 and began an affiliation with the Latin American Centre. I came to Oxford after finishing my PhD at Johns Hopkins University in the United States. Before this, I was in my home country of Trinidad and Tobago where I did an undergraduate degree in History and Political Science at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

While in Oxford I have primarily been focussed on my book project, entitled “The Liminal Zone: The Greater Southern Caribbean in the Revolutionary Era”. The proposed monograph examines the rise of the Southern Caribbean as a distinct region, not defined by the boundaries of nations or empires but by other kinds of intersections, revealing rather that core environmental, economic, socio-cultural, geopolitical, and revolutionary forces shaped the region. My research reveals how the conflicts among loyalists and republicans, enslaved and free, and creoles versus foreigners that erupted across the Greater Caribbean led to large-scale migration, often across imperial or national borders. Many of these migrants clustered in the Southern Caribbean, which served as an intermediary point for the North and South Atlantic World. If political turmoil was the push, it was slavery which provided the main pull factor towards the region, which included some territories with yet untapped potential. The book focuses especially on the island of Trinidad and on the South American mainland colony Demerara (now Guyana). Despite significant differences, both experienced sudden and dramatic development from the late eighteenth century, which helped to consolidate the region. Trinidad was an entangled indigenous, African, Spanish, French, and British territory by the turn of the nineteenth century, just as Demerara was an indigenous, African, Dutch, French and British one. The book concludes by exploring the disintegration of the region in the immediate post-emancipation period.

I have valued the community of scholars around the Latin American Centre and especially at the Latin American History Seminar where I have presented my own work and received very helpful feedback. I have also engaged with the LAC through the project ‘Re-Imagining Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean’, a part of the wider research network project ‘Re-Imagining Democracy 1750-1860’, which explores the changing meanings of and practices associated with the term ‘Democracy’ in different contexts. I came on board to help take up the challenge of including the diverse Caribbean. I am contributing a chapter that provides some historical context on the experience of

the British and French Greater Caribbean during the Age of Revolutions. Taking part in this project has been one of my most rewarding experiences at Oxford. I have thoroughly appreciated the workshops and feedback on my contribution to the eventual edited volume.

I have also especially enjoyed the social events at the Latin American Centre, even though most of these occurred under the cloud of the pandemic. Some of these activities have been a real highlight of my time here, and have been a good example of persevering in a time of crisis.

**Dexnell Peters**





# The LAC library

Frank Egerton

Since the last edition of Horizontes, the library has reopened to readers, locked down again, and reopened once more.

It was a strange experience returning to 1 Church Walk in late summer 2020 to do the risk assessments, measure the distances between desks, and put in orders for cleaning equipment, after having locked up the library some five months earlier.

The college had kept the building open, in the sense that all the services and safety checks had continued as usual, and everything looked in good order and much the same as it had done, but there was a curious feeling of emptiness and abandonment about the rooms. I was pleased to see that most of the plants were still alive and wondered who had been watering them.

Opening to readers has, of course, not been what it was, although just having people return to the building was wonderful and brought it back to life.

Holding our induction session on Teams worked well, I think, not least because it is all about accessing resources. And the fact that Rebeca and Sam had put in so much effort to get the reading lists onto ORLO during the first lockdown has been a terrific plus – were it not for the pandemic, we would only be joining the rollout about now. (See Rebeca's piece on ORLO, below.)

We've offered LibraryScan and Click and Collect services throughout the academic year, as well as giving readers the opportunity of returning their loans (subject to the quarantining of the books overnight). We've also benefitted hugely from the special measures that the Bodleian Libraries have put

in place in order to make remote services as rich and as extensive as possible. Although I realise that the interface of an ebook platform like HathiTrust isn't necessarily the most sophisticated, it is truly amazing that it has made some 1.5 million digital titles available to members of the University. I was really pleased that we could take out a digital subscription to the invaluable Latin American Weekly and Regional Reports.

Behind the scenes, normal background library activities have gradually resumed. For a long while we couldn't buy print books but we have started doing so again. We have received donations – generous gifts delivered in boxes and involving the sanitising of hands, conversations mumbled through masks about when all this will get back to normal, and, again behind masks but clearly visible, the smiles of donors, and of librarians.

Recently we have also completed a book move that we started in pre-lockdown days, which Sam writes about below.

What an odd year it has been! And yet, I do very much feel that the warmth of the Latin American Centre has survived – displaced mostly to digital exchanges and interactions – but most definitely there. Even in pandemics, the Centre and its library are special Oxford places.



## Rebeca

Like many librarians from my generation, I have always feared the time when digital collections were going to replace physical books and change our role. The pandemic has accelerated the changes that were going to happen anyway and were hanging over us like the Sword of Damocles.

Since lockdown measures started, we have found the Oxford Reading Lists Online system (ORLO) an invaluable way to make reading material accessible to our students. This year we have created 11 reading lists, uploaded 131 new scanned chapters from our physical collection and added many links to digital resources.

ORLO is a great platform that has proven to be very useful to remote students. To make ORLO work, behind the scenes there is significant human input alongside the value of the unique LAC Library collection.

ORLO is a place where digital books and hard copies come together to make knowledge accessible.

## Sam

### A Covid book move

Patience is a virtue: a maxim as relevant during these Covid months as in more normal times.

Immediately prior to the first lockdown back in March last year, we had finalised our plans for our latest book move. In lieu of building an extension every time the shelves at LAC Library are full to bursting, we must select books to send to the Book Storage Facility in Swindon where they can still be consulted as stack requests. The selection process involves a refined set of criteria along with heavy involvement from Eduardo in his role as Fellow Librarian and can often take months to complete.

Successive lockdowns, restrictions to library space, and increased demands on our time to support the extra library services provided, resulted in a full 14 month delay to complete the project, whilst our shelves were groaning under the increasing weight of newly purchased books. Finally, the book move is over, the library is beginning to look tidier, and there is space for the new purchases to come.



Richard Ovenden, the Bodley's Librarian, visiting the LAC, with Rebeca Otazúa

# Back to my Oxford home

**Maryhen Jimenez Morales**

A little over eight years ago, I received an acceptance letter from the Latin American Centre to the MSc program in Latin American Studies. I remember exactly how excited I was when I opened the attachment in Elvira's email, according to which I was going to study the subject I cared about the most - the politics of Latin America - at the world's best university. A dream had come true.

After moving to Oxford in September 2013, I quickly realised that one year would not be long enough to find fitting answers to my research questions. I was blessed enough to have my supervisor (David Doyle) and the LAC's support to switch to the MPhil program. During my two years at the LAC, I studied the region's history, economic development, as well as the politics of democracy and the Andean region. Fortunately, I could also take a course on comparative presidentialism and audit another on comparative democratization at the Department of Politics and International Relations. Not only did those classes allow me to improve my writing and analytical skills, but also to interact with first-class academics. I also became a student representative and took the opportunity to bring Venezuela's conflict closer to the LAC'S student and academic community through seminars, discussions, and via my own research.

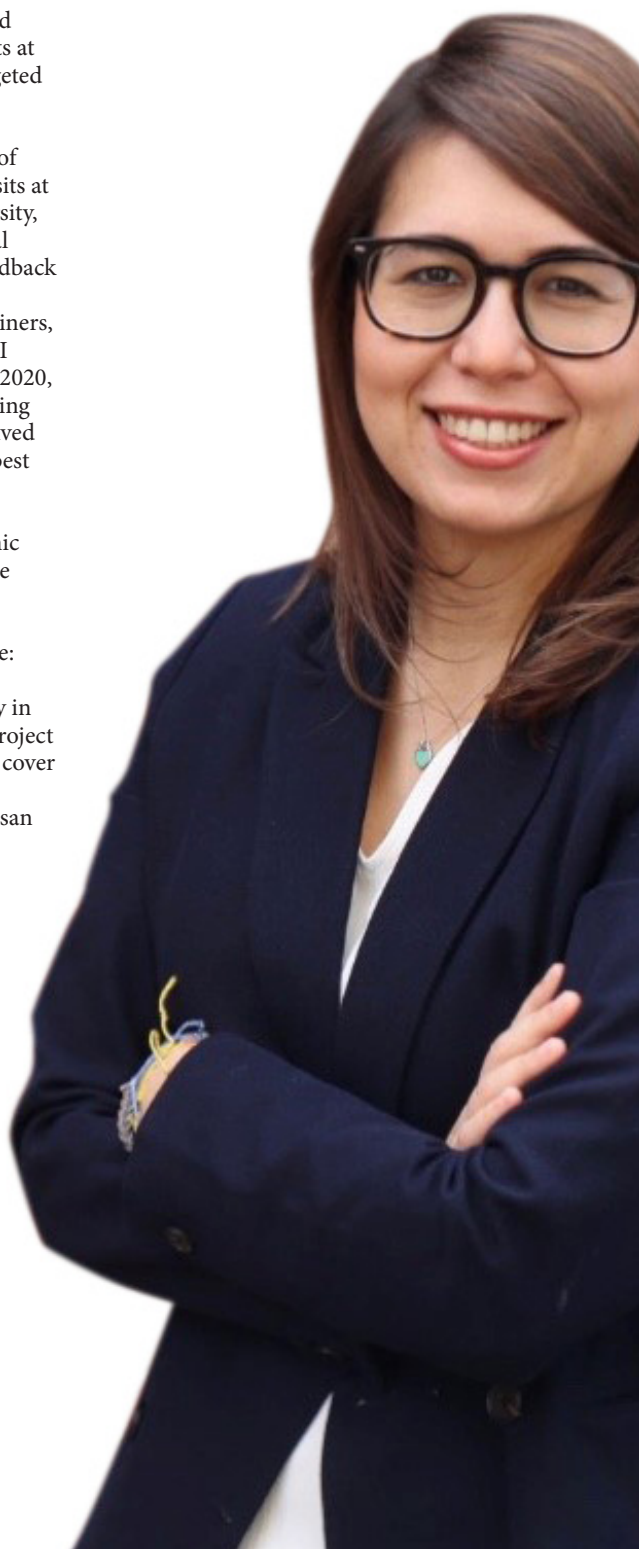
In 2014 I became interested in better understanding the dynamics and weaknesses of the Venezuelan opposition. I was studying the democratic period between 1958 and 1998 more carefully and the causes and consequences of party system collapse, one of which was Hugo Chávez's presidential victory in 1999. The fact that by 2014 none of either the traditional or new parties had been able to win the executive office was puzzling to me. After conducting fieldwork in Venezuela, reading and rereading existing scholarship and writing several drafts that incorporated Dave's feedback and guidance, I found that it was actually the other way round: parties had been able to survive, not only party system collapse, but also democratic backsliding under Chavismo. The question is how? In my thesis, I argued that what helped opposition parties to narrow the gap to an ever more authoritarian president was the creation of an opposition alliance called MUD.

Motivated by this dissertation and my passion to study Venezuelan politics more closely, I successfully applied to the DPhil program at the DPIR to study opposition strategies in non-democracies. From

existent work we know that opposition unity is key to enacting liberalization and/or democratization processes. Yet, what we observe is that not all oppositions unite in their fight for regime change. Why is this the case? This is the question I looked to answer in my doctoral work using evidence from Mexico under the PRI and Venezuela under Chavismo. Not only did I continue to count on Dave's wonderful support, but also on Nancy Bermeo, whose work I had long admired. I found that coordination is only possible under two conditions: When repression is both moderate and indiscriminate. When repression exists at either low or high levels and/or is targeted towards specific parties, coordination is less likely to occur. I came to this conclusion after four and a half years of research, fieldwork trips, academic visits at CIDE (Mexico) and Princeton University, analysing over 230 interviews, archival research, and the incorporation of feedback from my supervisors, colleagues, and friends. With the support of my examiners, Timothy Power and Jennifer Gandhi, I successfully passed my viva in March 2020, just as the global pandemic was breaking out. A year later, my dissertation received the PSA's 2021 Lord Bryce award for best dissertation in comparative politics.

As frequently happens during academic research, the more you study, the more gaps you find. Right after my doctoral defense I sat down again and wrote a proposal to return to my Oxford home: the LAC. Interested in understanding contemporary authoritarian durability in Latin America, my current research project extends from my doctoral research to cover new forms of external threats to non-democratic rulers, meaning new partisan and non-partisan oppositions. Which oppositions can effectively challenge autocrats? Which conditions favour the emergence of new oppositions in non-democratic regimes? With this line of research, I aim to contribute to a better understanding of authoritarian politics and the windows of opportunity for democratization.

Back in 2013, I could have never imagined that my Oxford professors would eventually be my colleagues. I have been incredibly fortunate to count on their support and mentorship throughout my academic journey, and hope that through my research and engagement at the Center, I can now give back to this incredible community.





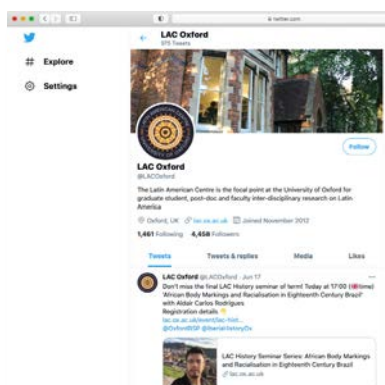
# LAC's News

Professor Timothy Power has been appointed Head of the Social Science Division to succeed Professor Dame Sarah Whatmore. Tim Power is Professor of Latin American Politics, current Head of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, and a Fellow of St Antony's. He has taught at Oxford since 2005 and is a member of the Department of Politics and International Relations as well as OSGA. Professor Power will take up the position from 1 October 2021.

David Doyle was awarded the title of Professor of Comparative Politics by the University Recognition of Distinction Scheme 2020. Professor Doyle's general research and teaching interests include comparative politics and comparative political economy. He is currently working on tax morale in Latin America and the political effect of migrant remittances

LAC alumna and DPhil graduate, Maryhen Jiménez Morales, has been recognised by the Political Studies Association (PSA) for the outstanding quality of her doctoral research: she has won the Lord Bryce Award for best dissertation in comparative politics. Her dissertation studies uneven patterns of opposition coordination in autocracies, using empirical evidence from Latin America, especially Mexico and Venezuela. Dr Jiménez Morales is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the LAC.

At the time of finalising this edition of Horizontes, the LAC's Twitter account had 4,456 followers.



Our former MSc student (2017-18), Adriana Unzueta, joined the El Agua es Oro team in Bolivia in 2020 (<https://www.startamericasttogether.org/el-agua-es-oro/>). This project provides a mobile water recycling service to improve peri-urban water access and resilience – its current focus is in the community of Champarrancho. For more details you can watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwdkaxOkkY4> Adriana wrote her LAC dissertation on the governance of water in Cochabamba.

Laurence Whitehead received the Professional Merit award by the LASA-Bolivia section at the LASA congress this

When Robert Malengreau finished his MPhil at the Latin American Centre, he founded the charity UmRio in 2013. The concept was born from his masters research on social inequality in Brazil. UmRio uses rugby as a platform and interface to ascertain the needs of beneficiaries -- children and families in Rio's favelas -- and engages in direct service in issues of education, employment, and healthcare. Last year, UmRio was responsible for cutting extreme poverty amongst beneficiaries by half, reducing the number of people living on less than USD 1 per day from 106 to 11, securing vital digital access to 152 people, and improving mental health. This year UmRio is poised to team up with Fiocruz, Brazil's leading health institute that has worked closely with the University of Oxford to develop the Astra Zeneca vaccine. The aim of the alliance is to develop strategies to combat Covid-19 in Rio's favelas, specifically Morro do Castro where UmRio is based. [www.umrio.org](http://www.umrio.org) [www.onerio.co.uk](http://www.onerio.co.uk).

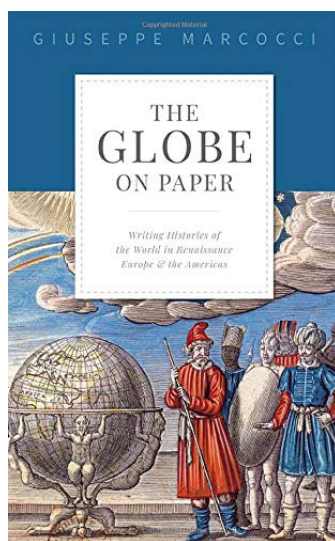


# Publications

Selection of recent books and essays that reflect the work of members of the LAC community.

## The Globe on Paper

Giuseppe Marcocci, *The Globe on Paper*. Writing Histories of the World in Renaissance Europe and the Americas (OUP, 2020).

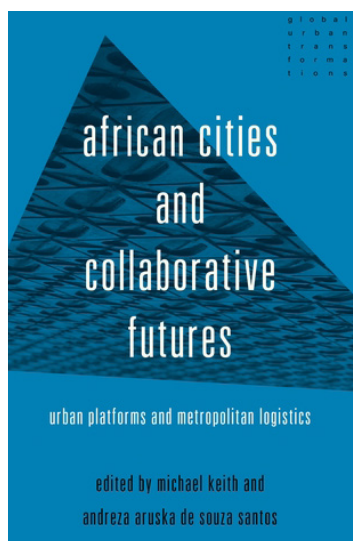


A study of the cross-fertilization of historical writing in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, *The Globe on Paper* reconstructs a set of imaginative accounts worked out from Mexico to the Moluccas and Peru, and from the shops of Venetian printers to the rival courts of Spain and England. The pages of this book teem with humanists, librarians, missionaries, imperial officials, as well as forgers and indigenous chroniclers. Drawing on information gathered—or said to have been gathered—from eyewitness reports, interviews with local inhabitants, ancient codices, and material evidence, their global narratives testify to an unprecedented broadening of horizons which briefly flourished before succumbing to the forces of imperial and religious reaction.

The book won the 2021 Federico Chabod Prize – a biannual prize awarded by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei to the best book by an Italian historian in any field (medieval, early modern, or modern history).

## African Cities and Collaborative Futures

Andreza A de Souza Santos & Michael Keith, eds. *African Cities and Collaborative Futures*, Manchester University Press 2021



With case studies from cities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tanzania, this volume explores how the rapid growth of African cities is reconfiguring the relationship between urban social life and its built forms.



James Loxton (University of Sydney), a LAC visiting scholar in 2019, and Tim Power have completed work on a project on “authoritarian diasporas.” Loxton’s work has examined the phenomenon of “authoritarian successor parties,” i.e. parties that emerge from authoritarian regimes but that operate after a transition to democracy. Power’s early work on Brazil in the 1980s showed a different pattern: politicians have scattered into a host of political parties and/or independent candidacies. This pattern of dispersion was termed “authoritarian diasporas” by Power, and was the subject of a 5-article special issue in the journal *Democratization* (vol. 28, no. 3, March 2021). Loxton and Power’s introductory essay gives considerable attention to Latin American cases, and a separate article by Michael Albertus and Mark Deming shows the consequences of authoritarian dispersion in the region. When authoritarian-era elites capture a wide range of posts across disparate government branches—spanning the executive, legislature, judiciary, military, and local elected office—elite dispersion clearly undercuts the quality of democracy.



# Publications

## The History of Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1800s-1870s

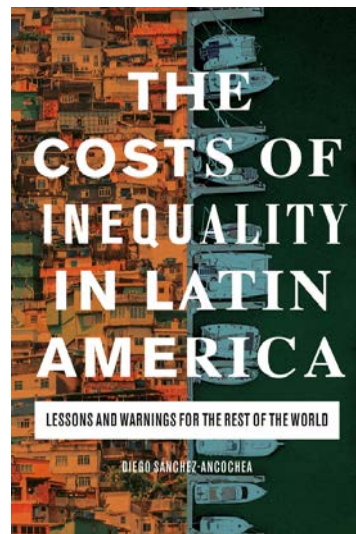
Eduardo Posada-Carbó, ed., 'The History of Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1800s-1870s', 'Dossier' published in the *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies*, 26:2, (2020).



This dossier examines a topic that has hitherto received very little attention by modern scholarship, with few notable exceptions. Such neglect is particularly apparent when it comes to Latin America and the Caribbean, a region that during the nineteenth century tends to be identified almost exclusively with either dictatorship or anarchy. By looking at the trajectories of the word 'democracy', the struggles against slavery, the impact of key texts in shaping our understandings of democracy, and the relationship between constitutionalism and democracy, the articles included in this collection offer an invitation to revise a subject that is both wide-reaching and complex. Following the 'Introduction' by the editor, the dossier includes contributions from Javier Fernández Sebastián, Carrie Gibson, Gabe Paquette, Jesús Sanjurjo, José Antonio Aguilar, Eduardo Zimmermann, Marcelo Casals, Andrés Estefane and Juan Luis Ossa. The dossier is based on some of the papers presented at a conference organised at the LAC in May 2017, with the support of the John Fell Fund and the Sanderson Fund of the Oxford History Faculty. It is part of the Oxford based project 'Re-imagining Democracy' <https://re-imaginingdemocracy.com/>

## The Costs of Inequality in Latin America

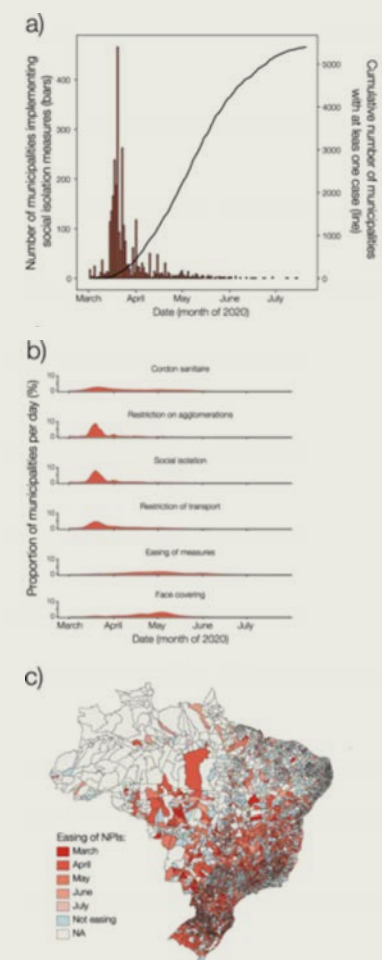
Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, *The Costs of Inequality in Latin America: Lessons and Warnings for the Rest of the World* (Bloomsbury, December 2020)



This book explores the political, economic and social problems that inequality has created in Latin America. Using past and present examples from different countries, the book demonstrates how inequality has hampered economic growth and contributed to a lack of good jobs. Inequality has also been one of the drivers of weak institutions and the emergence of anti-system politics for decades. The poor and the middle class have tended to distrust traditional political parties, gravitating towards political leaders who offer easy solutions and promise rapid gains—a trend that is now evident in many other parts of the world. Inequality has also contributed a variety of social problems from violence and racism to mistrust of neighbours and institutions. The relationships the book explores do not go in just one direction. In fact, low growth, exclusionary politics, and violence have reinforced inequality, generating vicious cycles that are increasingly difficult to overcome. At the same time, the book (selected as one of the top-20 economics books by the Financial Times) also considers Latin America's positive lessons. The region has been a cradle of progressive ideas and has benefited from some of the most dynamic social movements in the world.

## Dataset on SARS-CoV-2 non-pharmaceutical interventions in Brazilian municipalities

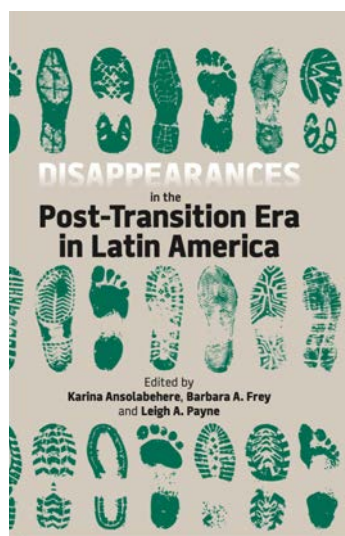
Andreza A. de Souza Santos et al. "Dataset on SARS-CoV-2 non-pharmaceutical interventions in Brazilian municipalities", published in Nature Scientific Data, bringing data on local policies in Brazil to contain the spread of Covid 19



Local governments play a critical role in looking to contain COVID-19, especially in Brazil where there is no national response. And yet this type of information is often scattered. In this paper the authors detail the results of a survey with 5568 municipalities + the Federal District in Brazil on the first dates of lockdown and easing of physical distancing.

## Disappearances in the Post-Transition Era in Latin America

*Disappearances in the Post-Transition Era in Latin America.* Edited by Karina Ansolabehere, Barbara A. Frey, and Leigh A. Payne



Despite transitions from authoritarian rule and armed conflict in the 1980s, Latin America continues to face human rights tragedies. This book examines the phenomenon of continued (and even increased) instances of disappearances in a context of human rights law and advocacy in four countries: Mexico, Brazil, El Salvador, and Argentina. It considers a variety of voices and points of view: surviving relatives of victims, activists, legal advocates, public officials seeking truth and justice, and scholars attempting to draw out the specificities in each case and the patterns across cases. The book sets out four elements characteristic of the disappearances that have continued after the transition period: their clandestine nature; the social construction of disposable people; the political economy or utility of disappearance; and the use of ambiguous loss as a form of social control. The underlying objective of the book is to promote change within the region, and to understand and overcome the tragedy of disappearances.

The book is the product of Newton Fund fellowships to the Latin American Centre with FLACSO-México and UNIFESP in São Paulo. It is included in the British Academy series from Oxford University Press (2021).

## Impact of the “Operation Condor” project

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the impact and significance of Dr Francesca Lessa’s work was recognized in several ways.

In June 2020, the project “Operation Condor: Accountability for Transnational Crimes in South America” was included in the final shortlist of highly ranked entries to the 2020 Vice Chancellor’s Innovation Awards of the University of Oxford. The panel was very impressed by Dr Lessa’s project and agreed that it was “strong, rooted in research and with significant impacts, and an incredible exemplar of research.” The project now features in the Oxford Impact Case Studies series on the University [webpage](#).

Further, on July 27, 2020, the Argentine daily newspaper *Página12* published a lengthy [interview](#) with Dr Lessa, in which she outlined some of the preliminary findings of the Operation Condor project and, particularly, the novel Database on South America’s Transnational Human Rights Violations (1969–1981) that she has compiled since 2017. Then, on January 27, 2021, the evening news programme *Informe Capital* of Uruguayan TV channel TV Ciudad also discussed in a dedicated [newsclip](#) some of Dr Lessa’s preliminary findings on transnational human rights violations in South America. In particular, the feature highlighted how Dr Lessa’s findings that 48% of the victims of cross-border repression in South America were Uruguayan political opponents, who had sought exile in nearby Argentina where they were then targeted.

On September 3, 2020, *The Guardian* published the article “Operation Condor: the illegal state network that terrorised South America,” written by journalist Giles Tremlett in collaboration with Dr Lessa. The article recounts the enduring search for justice by victims and their relatives for some of South America’s darkest crimes.

Dr Lessa’s project was funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 702004.





## New publications by Dr Lessa



In late 2020, Dr Lessa was invited by the NGO Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ) to write the opening [chapter](#) for its annual report on the human rights situation in Uruguay. SERPAJ, founded in 1981 during the era of military rule, was the first NGO founded in Uruguay to work in the defence of fundamental human rights. Since 1988, SERPAJ has also been publishing a yearly report on the human rights situation in the country. In her contribution to the 2020 report, Dr Lessa discusses the significance of the historic sentence handed down by Rome's Appeals Court in the so-called Operation Condor trial in 2019, in which 13 former Uruguayan civilian and military defendants were condemned to life imprisonment.



Dr Lessa's most recent article, entitled "Remnants of Truth: The Role of Archives in Human Rights Trials for Operation Condor," was published in the March 2021 issue of the *Latin American Research Review* (LARR). LARR is among the most prestigious publications in the field and serves as the academic journal of the Latin American Studies Association, having been in continuous publication since 1965. Dr Lessa's article forms part of a Special Collection on "Human Rights Trials in Latin America" that also features contributions by Jo-Marie Burt, Lorena Balardini and Elizabeth Lira. Dr Lessa's article focuses on the ways in which archives were used in two human rights trials in Italy and Argentina against members of the Operation Condor transnational network of repression. Specifically, it deconstructs the role that different trial actors—including public and private prosecutors, archivists, experts, witnesses, lawyers, and judges—played in the courtroom, engaging in proactive efforts to piece together evidence from archival records to form the basis of their arguments for conviction.

## Contesting Autocracy

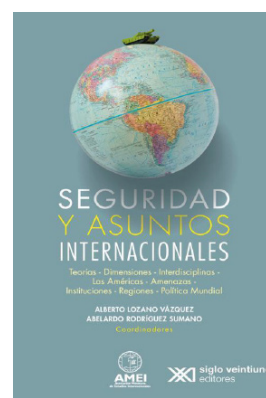
Maryhen Jiménez, 'Contesting Autocracy: Repression and Opposition Coordination in Venezuela,' *Political Studies* (May 2021).



Opposition coordination varies widely in electoral autocracies. Sometimes, opposition parties are highly coordinated and create alliances, present joint candidates or common policy platforms. Yet, at other times, oppositions choose to challenge incumbents individually. This article seeks to explain what drives opposition parties to coordinate in non-democratic regimes. It finds that opponents' decision-making and strategy formation is influenced by the amount of repression they face from the incumbent regime. It argues that repression has a curvilinear relationship with opposition coordination. When repression is low and high, opposition coordination will be informal or clandestine. However, when repression is at intermediate levels, opposition parties will formally coordinate to dislodge authoritarian incumbents. This article illustrates this argument through an analysis of the Venezuelan opposition under *Chavismo* (1999–2018), combining 129 interviews with party elites, journalists, academics, and regime defectors, along with archival research at key historical moments.

## Seguridad y asuntos internacionales

Alberto Lozano Vázquez and Abelardo Rodríguez Sumano, eds., *Seguridad y asuntos internacionales: Teorías, dimensiones, interdisciplinas, las américas, amenazas, instituciones, regiones y política mundiales* (Mexico: Siglo XXI, 2020).



Laurence Whitehead wrote the prologue for this edited collection, an impressive undertaking that brings together 94 authors in 80 chapters dealing with security issues from an international relations perspective.

## How to classify policies

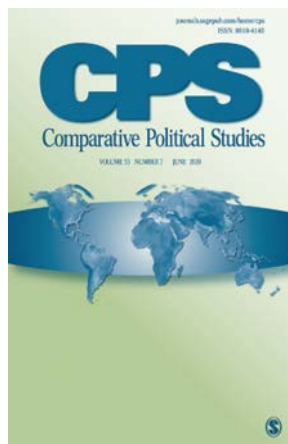
Radoslaw Zubek, Abhishek Dasgupta and David Doyle, 'Measuring the Significance of Policy Outputs with Positive Unlabelled Learning'. 2021. *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 115, 1, pp. 339-346.



In this work, we propose a novel approach to the classification of policies. We use experts to identify a small set of significant outputs and then employ positive unlabelled (PU) learning to search for other similar examples in a large unlabelled set. We further propose to automate the first step by harvesting "seed" sets of significant outputs from web data. We offer an application of the new approach by classifying over 9,000 government regulations in the United Kingdom.

## Tax Morale in Latin America

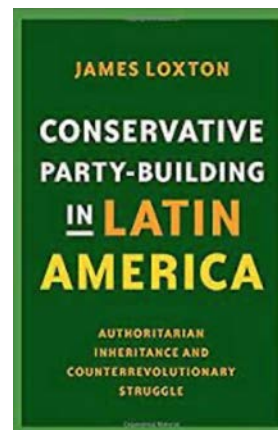
Néstor Castañeda, David Doyle and Cassilde Schwartz). 2020. *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 53, 7, pp. 1175-219.



We examine the individual-level determinants of tax morale in Latin American countries. Those who choose to opt out of taxation prefer to substitute state-provided goods for private providers, rather than pay for public goods through taxes or free ride to receive those goods. Through a list experiment conducted in Mexico City, we demonstrate that willingness to evade taxes is highest when individuals have stepped outside of the social contract. We bolster our experimental results with observational data from 17 Latin American cities.

## New Conservatives

James Loxton, *Conservative Party Building in Latin America. Authoritarianism, Inheritance and Revolutionary Struggle* (Oxford University Press, 2021).



Where do strong conservative parties come from? While there is a growing scholarly awareness about the importance of such parties for democratic stability, much less is known about their origins. In this groundbreaking book, James Loxton takes up this question by examining new conservative parties formed in Latin America between 1978 and 2010. The most successful cases, he finds, shared a surprising characteristic: they had deep roots in former dictatorships. Through a comparative analysis of failed and successful cases in Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, and Guatemala, Loxton argues that this was not a coincidence. The successes inherited a range of resources from outgoing authoritarian regimes that, paradoxically, gave them an advantage in democratic competition. He also highlights the role of intense counterrevolutionary struggle as a source of party cohesion. James Loxton was an academic visitor at the LAC during the academic year 2018-19.

### Justicia transicional y la rendición de cuentas de actores económicos, desde abajo: desplegando la palanca de Arquímedes

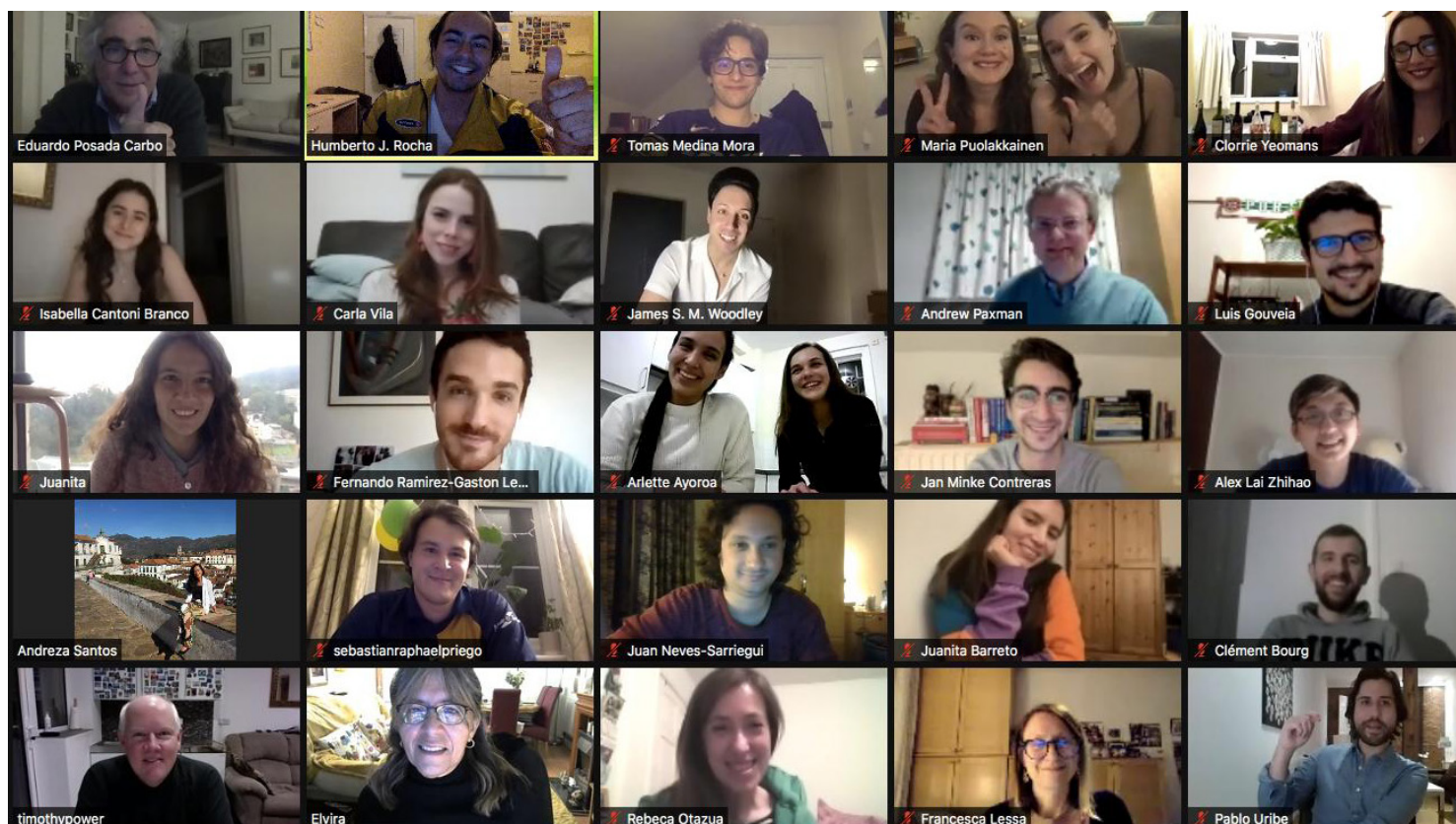


Leigh A. Payne  
Gabriel Pereira  
Laura Bernal-Bermúdez

Colectión  
Dejusticia

Leigh A. Payne, along with her co-authors and LAC affiliates Gabriel Pereira and Laura Bernal-Bermúdez, have published the translation of their Cambridge University Press book (2020) in Spanish: *Justicia transicional y rendición de cuentas de actores económicos, desde abajo: desplegando la palanca de Arquímedes* (Bogotá: Editorial Dejusticia 2021). It is available for free download in pdf format at: <http://www.dejusticia.org>. In addition to the authors' thanks to Dejusticia for publishing the volume, they also wish to acknowledge support from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Programa de Derecho para Latinoamérica, and Josefina Doz Costa for the translation of the book and its free and public access.





LAC virtual party with participation from students across continents



Darío Jaramillo reciting poetry from his book "Impossible Loves"



Dexnell played the steel pan drum while Elizabeth sang Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Desafinado"



Paulo Tô and Pedro Santos performing live from São Paulo



Maria singing "Ojalá" by Silvio Rodríguez at the virtual LAC party



# Wine, music, poetry and *vida*:

## The LAC's mid-term party

Humberto J. Rocha

I think I speak for most of us when I say that the winter months were difficult. Cold, somber, and, due to the nature of the pandemic not only in the UK but in all of our countries, lonely months.

Yet when I remember 5 March and the LAC's virtual party, I think of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's hopeful quote. That no matter our condition, the cataclysms, the weight of everything around us, *'nuestra respuesta es la vida.'* Simply put, we respond with life. And what *vida* we all brought that night in all its glorious forms.

Clorrie Yeomans showed us her enviable dexterity and sommelier-level knowledge with her exquisite wine collection. Thanks to her efforts, all LAC students who were in Oxford were able to partake in our own Malbec tasting.

I'm nearly brought to tears remembering the power of Darío Jaramillo Agudelo's poetry, his appreciation and fondness for human connection. From *Poemas de Amor* 6, I recalled our pandemic situation: *'Tu voz por el teléfono tan cerca y nosotros tan distantes... tu voz aquí, a lo lejos, que le da sentido a todo...'*\*

The soundwaves and beats and drums and strings that made us move and shake, dozens of heads bopping in unison across our screens as we were serenaded by musicians in São Paulo, in London, in Oxford. Paulo Tó and Pedro Santos brought us the guitar from Brazil, Ivan Guevara the piano's melodic notes, and Dexnell Peters and his wife Elizabeth the thunderous and jovial beat of the steel pan drum. Our very own James Woodley amazed us with the violin, followed by Maria Puolakkainen and Maddy Wattles who left us in awe with their beautiful singing of 'Ojalá' and 'Don't Know Why'.

Our interactive quiz with Tomás Medina Mora and Sebastián Raphael Priego tested our knowledge of Latin American literature, activists, and elections, while offering a comedic break and laughter to bring an end to what had been a truly spirited evening with friends and colleagues.

And finally, fellow LAC student Luis Gouveia's reading of 'Little America' by Neruda is what most reminds me of what brought all of us here together in the first place, even if we were thousands of miles apart that very night: latinoamérica.

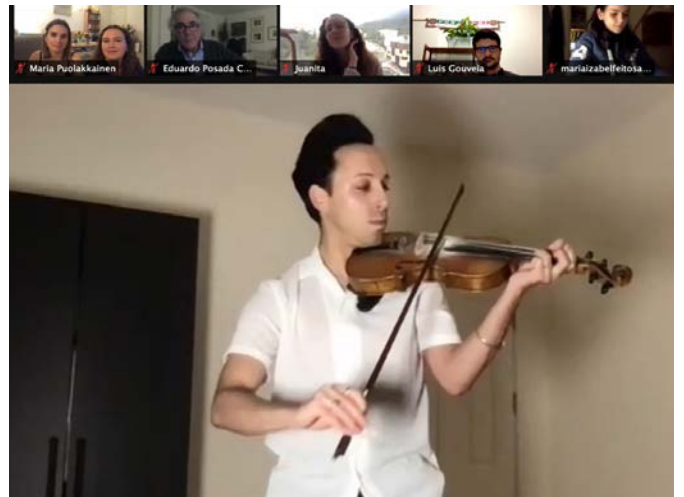
We responded with life that night and, as Neruda said, *'a través de tu vida, me está dando la vida que me falta...'* \*\*

\* *Your voice through the phone so close and us so far... your voice here, from far, is what makes everything make sense*

\*\**through your life, I get the life that has been missing from me*



Maddie singing at the LAC party



James playing the violin at the virtual LAC party



Ivan Guevara performing on behalf of the Clásico Latino



# Student life outside the LAC

As well as many hours spent in the University's libraries, the students of the Latin American Centre have taken part in many extracurricular activities. Here are some photos of the students enjoying themselves. Many thanks to Louisa Wagner for providing the pictures



LAC Students on a scenic walk in Cornwall



MPhil Student Matthias Brickel finishing a triathlon in the annual Varsity Match against Cambridge University in 2021



Bike tour to Whytham through Port Meadow



LAC Students contemplating the future?



Carla, James, Jack, Maria, Hannah, and Sebastián celebrating at the Jericho Tavern





Relaxing and having fun together on the weekend



Martin rowing in the Oxford Blues Boat at Ely in Cambridgeshire



Maria and Louisa punting to University Parks



Bella and James playing squash at Wolfson College



Maria, James, Matthias, Clement, Sarasa, and Robyn meeting for the first time in Michaelmas



Celebrating the submission of dissertations and theses

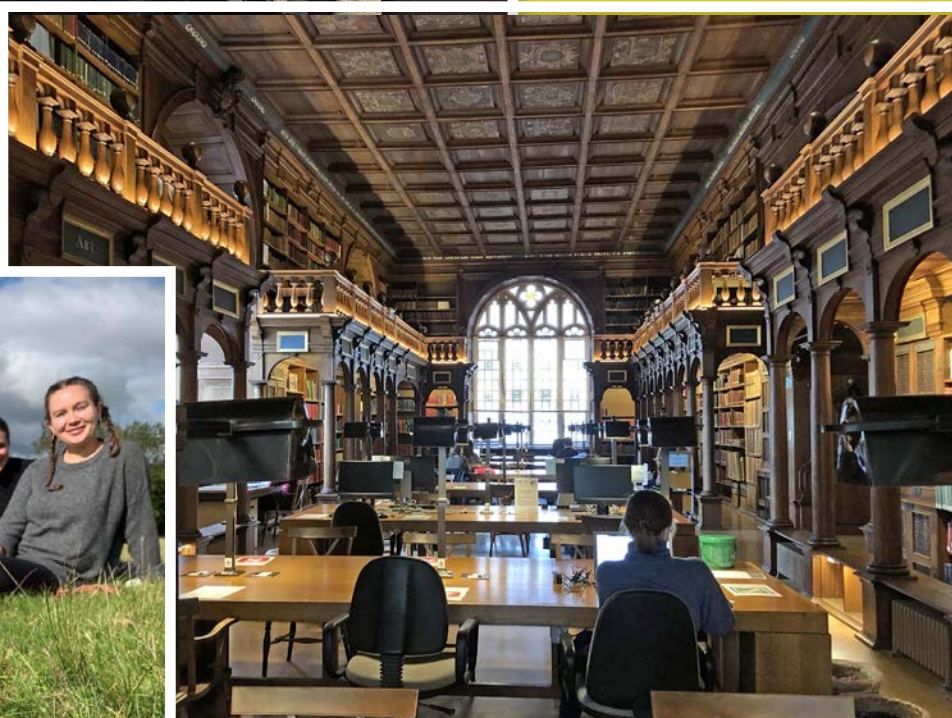


# Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



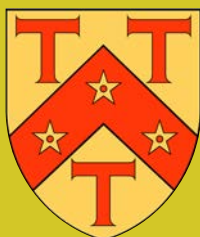
Matriculation day celebration in the centre of Oxford



Studying at the Duke Humfrey's library



Resting after bike tour to Whytham through Port Meadow



MSc Alumna 2020 Hannah Brown visiting Oxford

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