Dr. Barbara Mundy on a prehispanic temple platform, Epazoyucan, Mexico, January 2020.
I write like all of you are reading, from home at the end of a busy and disorienting academic year for all of us. While the country and our own city navigates issues of public health, fear, and blame, we in Latin American and Latino Studies would like to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of our program and its members throughout the year. Achievements like Professor Yuko Miki’s multiple awards for her book *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* (Cambridge) and upcoming fellowships. Or Professor Beth Pency’s lauded *The People Are King: The Making of an Indigenous Andean Politics* (Oxford).

We also celebrate events connected with some of our courses from this year. Courses like Professor Carey Kasten’s course on the Spanish Civil War, which invited Dr. Sebastiaan Faber to discuss his work on the topic with her students. Or Professor Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé’s *New York in Latinx Literature and Film*, which welcomed multiple guest lecturers while Dr. Cruz-Malavé was away in Cuba serving on the prestigious prize committee at the Casa de las Américas.

We also recognize and congratulate our graduating seniors. Among them are students entering graduate school and some who completed independent research projects this year. Nearly all are double majors or majors with double minors. Please join us in celebrating their hard work and accomplishments.

You’ll also see a few images or write-ups from LALSI’s events over the year. LALSI enjoyed partnerships with the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, the Center for Engaged Learning, the Notre Dame Club of New York City, the Fordham Digital Scholarship Collaborative, the Center for Race, Law, and Justice, the Arts and Sciences Deans, the Bronx African American Oral History Project. Among departments and programs, we collaborated with English, African and African American Studies, American Studies, Art History and Music, Communications and Media Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Medieval Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, Theology, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. At the time of “The Pause,” we were also mere days away from another LALSI-organized milestone musical workshop and concert, this year with Bronx-Cuban percussionist and Grammy-nominated bandleader Pedrito Martínez, which we hope will occur in the future.

Finally, we want to recognize the support of our staff and administrators at both Lincoln Center and Rose Hill, including Natasha Obeng, Isaac Tercero, and our student worker Luis Rodríguez. Wishing all LALS students, staff, faculty, partners, and friends of the program a restful summer and a renewed energy to move forward even amidst uncertainty about the year to come.

Sara L. Lehman
Director
Faculty News

Associate Director of LALSI, Dr. Yuko Miki, received multiple awards and honors for her book, *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* (Cambridge). At the American Historical Association Meeting in January in New York City, she received the 2019 Wesley-Logan Prize for the best book in African diaspora history and the Warren Dean Memorial Prize for Brazilian history from the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH). The book also received Honorable Mention for the Latin American Studies Association’s 19th-Century Section Best Book Prize and CLAH’s Howard F. Cline Prize for Ethnohistory, and was a finalist for the Outstanding First Book Prize of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). Starting this fall, Professor Miki will be on leave as she works on her new book, *Brazilian Atlantic: Stories of Illegal Slavery*, for which she has received fellowships from both the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies. She will miss the LALS community but looks forward to catching up with everyone for gatherings, food, and music—right here in New York City, our home.

(Left) Dr. Miki with fellow Latin Americanist historians Cristina Soriano, Barbara Weinstein, and Sinclair Thomson at the CLAH Awards Luncheon in January.

(Right) In Nov 2019, students from Dr. Miki’s UHC Latin America and Slavery & Freedom in the Atlantic World courses, together with some LALS faculty, went to a live performance of Cuban musician and Grammy-nominee Pedrito Martinez at the 92Y. We enjoyed a fantastic performance in which Pedrito played, sang, and danced to various rhythms from Santería to Kumba, Hip Hop, and Latin Jazz. Thanks to the Office of Diversity for their supporting this trip.
Dr. *Sara Lehman* completed her second year of LALSI Directorship. She taught for the Manresa program for the fourth year, teaching her *Spanish Colonialism Through Film* seminar. Throughout the spring, she participated in Fordham's Reimagining Higher Education Incubator to design a proposal for an alternate pathway through the CORE. Stay tuned for exciting curricular possibilities to come out of that group! Sara will be teaching an Interdisciplinary Capstone course with Professor Steve Holler of Physics in the spring, entitled, “*Rediscovering the New World*”. The course will focus equally on the 15th-century technologies that enabled the conquest of the Americas and the modern scientific techniques developed to uncover and research "lost" sites in Mexico and Central America.

During 2019-2020 Dr. *Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé* published an annotated anthology of the complete short stories of the NY Puerto Rican writer, Manuel Ramos Otero (1948-1990), in the distinguished Latin American publishing house Casa de las Américas in Havana, Cuba, in a series of masterpieces of Latin American and Caribbean literature which features authors such as Julio Cortázar, Clarice Lispector, and Frantz Fanon: Ramos Otero, Manuel, *Cuentos (casi) completos*. Compilation, notes and prologue by Arnaldo M. Cruz-Malavé. Collection of Latin American and Caribbean Literature. Havana: Casa de las Américas, 2019. Dr. Cruz-Malavé also published “*Lezama Lima’s ‘Julián del Casal’: A New Aesthetics of Reception and Failure for Post-Revolutionary Times*,” in *Small Axe* 60 23, 3 (November 2019). Published by Duke UP, Small Axe is presently one of the most distinguished Caribbean studies scholarly journals. And he published a piece on the urban landscape in the poetry of …

*(Continued on next page)*
Dr. Elizabeth Penry’s new book, *The People Are King: The Making of an Indigenous Andean Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2019) was recently awarded the 2020 Flora Tristán Prize for the best book on Peru in any subject, given by the Latin American Studies Association, Peru Section. *The People Are King* spans three centuries of colonial history in the highlands of the Viceroyalty of Peru, today Bolivia. The book centers on two key moments that bookend the colonial period. In the late sixteenth century indigenous Andean communities were forcibly removed from their traditional villages by Spanish colonizers and resettled in planned, self-governed towns modeled after those in Spain. But rather than conforming to Spanish cultural and political norms, indigenous Andeans adopted and gradually refashioned the institutions imposed on them, creating a new identity for themselves which they called the común, the common people.

...Continued on next page)


...Continued on next page)

(Left) Dr. Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé announcing the winner of the Casa de las Américas Prize in the category of the literary and artistic essay.
During Spring 2020, Dr. Cynthia Vich, together with her colleague Sarah Barrow, (University of East Anglia, UK) finished their edited collection *Peruvian Cinema of the Twenty-First Century. Dynamic and Unstable Grounds*. This book consists of sixteen essays about the current state of Peruvian cinema in the context of the country's neoliberal political and economic framework over the last 20 years. The book has entered production stage and will be published later this year by Palgrave Macmillan, New York.
Professor Barbara Mundy studies the art and urbanism of early modern Latin America, which takes her frequently to Mexico. She spoke at a conference in Toluca, Mexico in August, 2019 and co-organized a conference in Mérida, Yucatán in January 2020. She presented a lecture, "Lifestyles of rich Aztecs and famous Spaniards in Mexico City, 1520-1580," in Los Angeles in October, 2019. One of her most mind broadening experiences came with the invitation to a conference at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, in November 2019, which compared the imperial systems and cartography of the Spanish Hapsburg empire and those of China. She serves on the editorial board of a new journal, Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture, and recently edited a section of it that brought together two of her long standing interests, material science and artistic practice. One of her proudest achievements is her participation in Moving Saints of the Bronx, an online collaborative project developed with students in her Modern Latin American Art class and Visual Resources Curator Katherina Fostano. It aims to document and interpret the devotional imagery of immigrant communities in the Bronx: movingsaintsofthebronx.ace.fordham.edu
Dr. Stephanie M. Huezo is a historian of Latin American and Latinx History. She comes to Fordham from Mount Holyoke College where she was a post-doctoral fellow in History and from Indiana University, Bloomington where she received her Ph.D. Her research focuses on Salvadoran community organizing during the twentieth and twenty-first century in both El Salvador and the United States. In the fall, Dr. Huezo will teach two sections of Understanding Historical Change (UHC): Latin America. As a New York native, or better said, as a SalviYorker, she is excited to return to the city to teach, and learn from, the young scholars at Fordham University’s Lincoln Center.

Dr. Angelina Tallaj-Garcia, holds a PhD in ethnomusicology from the CUNY Graduate Center, and a MM in piano performance. She enjoys performing music from Latin America and the Caribbean and has performed in major venues such as Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Dr. Tallaj has taught ethnomusicology at Brooklyn College, John Jay College, Guttman Community College, and Franklin and Marshall College. Her research focuses on Dominican and Latin American music. Some of her publications include “Dominican Migrants, Plural Identities, and Popular Music,” and “Religion on the Dance Floor: Afro-Dominican Music and Ritual from Altars to Clubs.”
Rosalyn Kutsch (FCRH ‘19) recently returned from living in Madrid as a 2019-20 recipient of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant award to Spain. Rosalyn was located in a suburban secondary school and assisted in teaching English, History/Geography and Economics to students in the equivalent of 6th-10th grade. Her primary focus was leading the Global Classrooms initiative at her school. Global Classrooms is a program similar to Model United Nations where students represent a country in a city-wide conference and collaborate with one another to create resolutions to the world’s most pressing issues. The topic for this year’s conference was: Finding the Balance between Resource Efficiency and Economic Growth. Over the course of the year, Rosalyn introduced the concepts of urbanization, overconsumption, the circular economy and management of natural resources. Her students also participated in Fridays For Future climate strikes, as well as Greta Thunberg’s climate rally when the climate activist came to Madrid for the COP25 climate summit in December. Rosalyn believes this initiative was the most rewarding experience in her time as a Fulbright recipient. Her students emerged from the program more empathetic to the challenges facing countries far from their home in Madrid and with a desire to create sustainable solutions. Additionally, working with her students to develop the skills of diplomacy has only served to reaffirm their importance in her life. Rosalyn’s experience with Global Classrooms has shown her that it is never too early to cultivate the values of diplomacy and cross-cultural exchange in the classroom.

(Right) Rosalyn Kutsch (FCRH ‘19) was a 2019-2020 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Spain where she taught English, Economics, History and Global Classrooms at a secondary school in Madrid. She also enjoyed travelling and exploring the geographical and cultural diversity of the country and looks forward to returning to backpack in the Asturias region.
On November 5th, LALSI in coordination with the Music Department invited guest musician and lecturer John Amira to come to Fordham Rose Hill and host a Afro-Ensemble workshop for our students. While lecturing on the history and modern production of the musical bongos, Mr. Amira also taught our students some musical beats. Then coordinated the class into performing a small musical piece based on the standard patterns and beats found in Afro-Cuban music. Also in attendance was Dr. Jud Wellington, Ethnomusicologist and Ensemble Director at Fordham who teaches MUSC 1302. Afro-Latin Music Ensemble.

(Above) Mr. John Amira, blue shirt, poses with Dr. Jud Wellington, far left, with Fordham students from both the LALSI program and Music department.

(Right) Mr. Amira lectures on the history of Afro-Latin Jazz, while also demonstrating some of the many standard beats in musical performances.
List of LALS events and co-sponsored events throughout the year

September

- As part of the lectures on Hispanic Caribbean Women Writers on Race, Gender and Imperialism, Dr. Dixa Ramirez, Assistant Professor (Brown University) and author of *Colonial Phantoms: Belonging and Refusal in the Dominican Americas, from the 19th Century to the Present* (NYU 2018), gave a lecture called, "Dominican Blackness, Ghosting, and Bad Patriots". Other cosponsors included the African and African American Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, and the Center on Race, Law, and Justice.

October

- Dr. Maite Sánchez, Assistant Professor (Hunter College) and specialist on bilingual education, visited Dr. Cynthia Vich's class to make a presentation on "El bilingüismo dinámico y sus aplicaciones pedagógicas en NYC/Dynamic bilingualism and its pedagogical applications in NYC".
- Dr. Suzanne Cope, food studies scholar and narrative journalist, gave a talk called, "Hungry for Change: The Black Panthers’ Breakfast Program". This event was also co-sponsored by Fordham's Chief Diversity Officer, the Center for Community Engaged Learning, the Bronx African American History Project, and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.
- As part of the Behind The Book Series, the Maloney Library hosted a presentation called “Mestizaje/Mesticagem: Racism & Citizenship in Latin America”. Of the two professors who spoke, one of them was our Associate Director Dr. Yuko Miki.

November

- Dr. Sebastiaan Faber (Oberlin College), visited Dr. Carey Kasten's class to discuss his book “Memory Battles of the Spanish Civil War”.
- Guest musician and lecturer John Amira came to Rose Hill and hosted a Afro-Ensemble workshop. The Music Department also co-sponsored.
- Dr. Yuko Miki with Laurie Lambert from AAAS hosted a interdisciplinary working group meeting called "Narrating Slavery". They discussed Dr. Miki's work-in-progress *To Tame or to Kill: African Epistemologies and Slavery's Archives in 19th-Century Brazil*, which she is co-authoring with Africana religions scholar Ras Michael Brown.
- Dr. Yuko Miki took her class to The Pedrito Martínez concert.
- Dr. Andrés Villagrá (Dyson College, Pace University), visited Carey Kasten's class to discuss contemporary writings on the Spanish Civil War.

December

- Brenda Loya, a First Vice President in Amalgamated Bank's Social Impact Commercial Banking group, visited Dr. Yuko Miki's class to talk about the US-Mexico Border and larger issues about Latinx immigration and migration, and to share her work helping underserved Mexican American youth in the Bronx.

February

- The American Studies Election series began with a talk called, "A Globally Just Green New Deal". This was hosted by American Studies and co-sponsored by us with others including the Arts & Sciences Dean, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and the Department of Political Science.

Rest of Spring, post pause

- LALSI was planning on hosting a workshop and concert by the Pedrito Martínez group. Unfortunately, it had to be suspended until a later date. It will be co-sponsored with help from the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, the O'Connell Initiative (History Department), the Office of the Deans, the McGannon Center (Fordham Law School), the History Department, the Bronx African American History Project, and the Center for Race, Justice, and the Law (Fordham Law School).
- Dr. Cynthia Vich was planning on inviting Eduardo Porter, author of *American Poison: How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise*, to visit her class. His visit is postponed until October 2020.
- Lastly, sometime in April, Dr. Carl Fischer was planning on hosting a talk and screening with Pachi Bustos, the Director and Producer of *Haydee and the Flying Fish*. This has also been suspended until further notice.
Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Fordham University

**Majors**
Ava Braccia FCLC
Kimberly Diadat FCLC
Faelen Paladino FCRH
Angel Quiah-Londono FCLC
Lesly Rios FCLC
Matthew Schumacher FCRH

**Minors**
Catherine Fernandez FCRH
Perla Guzman Gomez FCRH
Caroline Holtz FCRH
Rebecca Light FCLC
Oscar Loja FCLC
Grace Medico-Cuapio FCRH
Ariana Montenegro FCLC
Natalie Rodriguez FCRH
Kate Sheehan FCRH

Boletín designed by Isaac A. Tercero, LALSI Program Administrator