Letter from the Director

I write from the June of a year that all of us are happy to see end! While we researched, taught, and learned from home for the most part, Latin American and Latino Studies continued running its signature events and partnerships that support our students and faculty. This is our moment, then, to take a breath and celebrate the achievements of our program and its members throughout the year. Achievements like Professor Yuko Miki’s Fordham Distinguished Research Award in the Humanities. Or Professor Barbara Mundy’s acceptance of the Robertson Chair in Latin American Art at Tulane University.

We also celebrate events connected with our 2020-21 courses. Courses like Professor Carl Fischer’s Cultures of Memory in Latin American Post-Dictatorships which hosted Dr. Camilo Trumper. Or Professor Miguel García’s, which welcomed Rita Indiana to talk to his and Professor Angelina’s Tallaj’s students about her work in literature and music.

In the present publication 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 minors or 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, Center for Race, Law, and Justice, the Arts and Sciences Deans, the Bronx African American Oral History Project, and the departments of English, African and African American Studies, American Studies, Art History and Music, Communications and Media Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, Theology, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (among others). In external partnerships, we collaborated with NYC institutions such as the Pregones Theater, the Loisaida Center, El Museo del Barrio, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/ NYPL. We consider maintaining and growing these connections among the most important work that LALSI does.

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 toward a hopeful year to come, under the guidance of our new Director Dr. Sal Acosta and our continuing Associate Director Dr. Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé.

Dr. Sara L. Lehman,
Director

Mexican author Andrea Chapela gave a talk about her recent science fiction book *Ansibles, perfiladores y otras máquinas de ingenio* in Professor Miguel García’s (Modern Languages and Literatures) SPAN 3310 (Latin American Science Fiction) class, on March 12th. Andrea discussed her creative process and literary influences, and answered questions about some of her short stories.

Additionally, Professors García and Angelina Tallaj (Art History and Music) moderated a talk with celebrated Dominican author, musician, and performer Rita Indiana, on April 1st. A robust audience (+100 attendees) heard Rita Indiana discuss the ways race, gender, and spirituality are reflected in her literary and music career.

On October 8, Professor Stephanie M. Huezo (History) gave a virtual talk at UMASS Boston's Gastón Institute as a previous awardee of the Andrés Torres Prize. Her paper was entitled "Reading and Driving under Popular Education: Tracing Salvadoran-Inspired Activism in Maryland."

On October 23, she gave a talk entitled "Pedagogy, Community, and Survival in the Salvadoran Revolution" at the Learning Across Liberation Theologies symposium hosted by The Latin American Philosophy of Education Society (LAPES). She also recently joined the Coordinating Collective for LAPES.

Dr. Huezo also participated in the launch of the winter 2020 issue of the NACLA Report on the Americas: Dispossession, Resistance & Solidarity in Central America where she has an article entitled "A New Era of Solidarity." (December 8th)

Finally, her article "Remembering the Return from Exodus: An Analysis of a Salvadoran Community’s Local History Reenactment" is in the new issue of Journal of Latino/Latin American Studies (JOLLAS) 11.1.
The freelance journalist and writer Alice Driver, author of the book *More or Less Dead: Feminicide, Haunting, and the Ethics of Representation in Mexico* made a virtual visit to Professor Carl Fischer’s (Modern Languages and Literatures) SPAN 2001 class on October 20 from her home in Mexico. In an episode of the podcast *Las Raras*, Dr. Driver covered the voyage of Estrella Pérez, a trans Salvadoran migrant, from San Salvador to California. Her visit to Fordham was made possible by a challenge grant jointly funded by LALSI and the Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.
Professors Carl Fischer and Cynthia Vich (Modern Languages and Literatures) hosted a joint launch, via Zoom, of two volumes that they each co-edited in late 2020 about Latin American cinema. Fischer, along with Vania Barraza of the University of Memphis, co-edited *Chilean Cinema in the Twenty-First-Century World*, which includes 14 articles from scholars based in Chile, Spain, and the United States. The volume was published in Wayne State University Press's Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media series. Meanwhile, Vich co-edited *Peruvian Cinema of the Twenty-First Century: Dynamic and Unstable Grounds*, along with Sarah Barrow of the University of East Anglia. Published with Palgrave MacMillan Press, the volume contains 16 articles from scholars based in Peru, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The film scholars Juana Suárez of NYU and Tamara Falicov of the University of Kentucky spoke at the presentation, which was moderated by Álvaro Bacquero-Pecino of Staten Island College/CUNY. (March 3rd)

Prof. Vich’s blurb for *Peruvian Cinema of the Twenty-First Century: Dynamic and Unstable Grounds*, “This is the first English-language book to provide a critical panorama of the last twenty years of Peruvian cinema. Through analysis of the nation’s diverse modes of filmmaking, it offers an insight into how global debates around cinema are played out on and off screen in a distinctive national context.”

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**Bottom left:** The book covers for *Peruvian Cinema of the Twenty-First Century* (Vich, left) and *Chilean Cinema in the Twenty-First-Century World* (Fischer, right)

**Top Right:** The book cover for Dr. Camilo Trumper’s *Ephemeral Histories: Public Art, Politics and the Struggle for the Street in Chile* (2016).
Finally, Professor Vich presented, "Epicas del Neoliberalismo. Subjetividades emprendedoras y ciudadanías precarias en el Perú" at this series of four roundtable discussions held at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú between April and May 2021 about the different ramifications of neoliberalism as a cultural regime in Peru.

On October 14th, Fordham welcomed the chief curator of the Studio Museum of Harlem, Thelma Golden, to an online event hosted by Professor Barbara Mundy (Art History and Music). Golden discussed the Museum’s longstanding commitment to contemporary artists of African descent, including the studio program aimed at nurturing the careers of visual artists. Among the many hats Golden wears is a construction helmet; she outlined the vision for the new building for the Studio Museum that is targeted to open sometime in 2022. Many of the students that gathered to hear her were art history majors, and Golden, a double major in art history at Smith College, talked about the value of the art history degree to her successful career.

Professor Clara Rodriguez (Sociology and Anthropology) was very pleased to have Eduardo Porter, Economics Reporter for the New York Times speak on his new book, American Poison: How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise. In this extensive and solidly referenced book, Porter explained why Americans, who appear to be otherwise conscientious, religious, and hard-working, and who would deny that they are racist, would nevertheless support leaders that openly expressed negative racial and gender biases toward particular groups. Over 80 people registered for the talk, and Dr. Janis Barry, of Fordham's Economics Dept., provided commentary. There was also a very extensive and spirited Q&A session after the talk. In addition, Patrick Verel (Fordham News) wrote an article on the talk titled, “New York Times Business Columnist Lays Out Devastating Consequences of Racism” for Fordham magazine. Lastly, in a show of generosity, Eduardo Porter donated his honorarium to two student groups at Fordham, i.e., the Student Emergency Fund, for students dealing with unanticipated COVID-related expense, and, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fund. The recording for the American Poison talk can be accessed here.

Top Left: An image of Thelma Golden, chief curator of the Studio Museum of Harlem.

Right: The primary imagery used for the Eduardo Porter talk, featuring an image of Mr. Porter.
Professor. Yuko Miki Receives the 2021 Distinguished Research Award in the Humanities

Prof. Yuko Miki (History), a historian of slavery in Brazil and the Atlantic World, received Fordham University’s 2021 Distinguished Research Award in the Humanities. The award was presented during a ceremony held on April 14th for Fordham University’s Research Day, organized by the Office of the Provost, the Office of Research, and the University Research Council. The award recognized Prof. Miki’s research accomplishments, including her book, *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* (Cambridge, 2018/2019), which won multiple prizes, and her publications and fellowships (including the NEH and ACLS) pertaining to her current project, *Emancipation’s Shadow: Stories of Illegal Slavery*.

**Frontiers of Citizenship**

**Comrade Sister**

**Blackening Britain**

**White Freedom**

Freedom & Slavery Working Group

Now in its second year, the Freedom & Slavery Working Group, co-organized by Laurie Lambert (AAAS) and Yuko Miki (LALS/History) with generous support from the A&S Dean’s Faculty Challenge Grant, LALS, AAAS, and History, held four events. The kick-off event was a celebration of Prof. Lambert’s highly-anticipated book, *Comrade Sister: Caribbean Feminist Revisions of the Grenadian Revolution* (Virginia, 2020), in which she discussed her work with Dr. Ronald Cummings of Brock University. Next was a workshop featuring Prof. Wes Alcenat (History) who shared a section of his book in progress, *Children of Africa, Shall Be Haytians: Prince Saunders and the Transatlantic Foundations of Black Emigration to Haiti (1775-1865)*. Dr. James Cantres of Hunter College followed with a talk on his new book, *Blackening Britain: Caribbean Radicalism from Windrush to Decolonization* (RPLG, 2020). The year concluded with Profs. Lambert and Miki in conversation with our new Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Tyler Stovall, on his book *White Freedom: The Racial History of an Idea* (Princeton, 2021) in collaboration with Fordham’s Office of Alumni Relations. A heartfelt thanks to so many of you joined us for our events to create much needed community in what has been an overwhelming year. We look forward to continuing our events, in-person as much as possible, in the Fall. If you’re interested in sharing your work or co-sponsoring an event, please get in touch with us at llambert3@fordham.edu and ymiki1@fordham.edu.

*Photo Caption: See page 8.*
Prof. Miki’s reflection over the past year

For many of us, a year of research and conference travel and writing was abruptly cancelled or indefinitely postponed, and we remain concerned about our friends, family, and colleagues in many Latin American countries where the pandemic rages on. The year has been tough for many working parents and caregivers, especially women, and it’s been a tremendous challenge to make the best of my long-awaited sabbatical while engaging in full-time childcare, including remote schooling my first-grade daughter since March 2020. I’m glad to share that I’ve been appointed to the Editorial Board of The Americas, one of the leading journals of Latin American history, and am Chair-Elect of the Brazil Section for the Conference on Latin American History. I’ve also enjoyed giving book talks and invited lectures and presented on several panels in Brazil, the U.S., and Japan to very different audiences—from Brazilian indigenous educators to Harvard scholars and graduate students and Japanese capoeiristas. I’ve also published a few chapters in Brazil and an article on my new project in the forthcoming issue of Citizenship Studies.

Dr. Elizabeth Penry’s (History) book, The People Are King: The Making of an Indigenous Andean Politics (Oxford University Press, 2019) was awarded the inaugural Susan M. Socolow-Lyman L. Johnson Chile-Rio de la Plata Prize, awarded biennially for the best book published on Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The prize was announced at the annual meeting of the Conference on Latin American History in January 2021.

In the citation for the award, the prize committee wrote “The research and writing in this book are exceptional, and we especially appreciate how well it communicates the present-day significance of Andean history for participatory democracy. This book makes a strong contribution to Andean studies, Colonial Latin American history, Ethnohistory, and understandings of democratic indigenous movements today.”

The People Are King was previously awarded the 2020 Flora Tristán Prize for the best book on Peru from the Latin American Studies Association, Peru section. It also received an Honorable Mention for Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize for the best book on Latin American History from the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association.

Dr. Penry spoke about her research and book at a Zoom conference held by the Center for Latin American Studies at Rutgers University in October 2020. Dr. Penry was also honored to be invited to speak at the Fordham Faculty Research Day in April 2021.

Photo Caption: See page 8.
Dr. Sara Lehman (Modern Languages and Literatures) is completing her leadership of Latin American and Latino Studies, after 3 years as Director and 3 years as Associate Director. She is beginning work in the Dean of Faculty’s office as Dean’s Fellow for 2021-22 and is expecting her chapter of Approaches to Teaching the Works of El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (Modern Language Association) to come out later this year.

Prof. Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (Modern Languages and Literatures) organized a Conversation with award-winning filmmaker Diego Quemada Diez on his La Jaula de Oro (The Golden Dream), a film about the difficult and dangerous journey of Central American youth from Guatemala through Mexico in search of asylum and a better life in the United States, on November 19th. The film won the Ariel for the best Mexican film of 2013.

He also organized a Conversation with Marco Antonio Rodriguez on his recent adaptation of Junot Diaz’s The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao for the theater for New York City’s Repertorio Español, on November 12th.

In addition, Prof. Cruz-Malavé gave this year’s Fordham’s MLL Inaugural Lecture, “‘Si no puedo bailar, no es mi revolución’ [If I can’t dance, it’s not my revolution]: Activism and Mourning in the Puerto Rican Demonstrations of the Summer of 2019.” His lecture examined the significance of dance performances in the demonstrations that deposed the then governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló, and argued that these demonstrations belong to a history of extravagant, irreverent, mourning practices that periodically irrupt in Puerto Rican society as a reaction to the colonial state’s necropolitical policies and its imposed mask of resilience and melancholia on expendable citizens, particularly women and queer people.

**Caption Above:** Vogueing at the Resistance Ball in the Puerto Rican demonstrations of the Summer of 2019. Photo by Jhoni Jackson.


**Caption from Page 7—Middle:** The flyer for Dr. Penry’s presentation at the annual meeting of the Conference on Latin American History, hosted by Rutgers University (January 2021).
Congratulations
to the
Class of 2021!

Fordham University

Majors
Michelle Cisneros FCRH
Jordi Giler FCRH
Mia Kimboko FCRH
Lilian Rebelo FCLC
Merlen Magana FCRH
Hugh Potter Jr. FCRH
Eva Raquel Zapata Signorino FCRH

Minors
Emily Andrade FCRH
Noelia Bautista FCRH
Monica de Diego FCLC
Mirian Luna FCLC

Boletín designed by Isaac A. Tercero, LALSI Program Administrator