

# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (LACS) is an interdisciplinary, undergraduate program within the UW Jackson School of International Studies. LACS offers both a major and a minor, as well as events, resources, and study abroad opportunities open to students in other programs.



CAPTION HERE?

## Program Overview

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies major has become one of the most vibrant area studies programs in the Jackson School of International Studies. Graduates from this program go on to successful careers in business, government, education, non-governmental organizations, law, and other fields. Many also use the degree as a step toward graduate study in history, geography, economics, anthropology, politics, and other fields at top universities.

The major's popularity stems from an interdisciplinary curriculum that combines the strengths of regional and comparative international studies with study and research opportunities in specific academic disciplines. Students graduate with both a comprehensive understanding of Latin America and a rich knowledge of the global processes affecting the region and its people. Students can also pursue practical training in a thematic area of choice such as Media Studies, NGO Management, Environmental Governance, Immigration, or Gender Studies.

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program evolved from a Dean's committee on Latin America, established in 1965, into a thriving undergraduate program in the 1970's. After a brief hiatus in the 1980's the program was reestablished in 1992 and has since been committed to the advancement of scholarship and applied knowledge about Latin America. The program is built around several region-specific themes and principles. These include the creative arts, borderlands, health and human rights, indigeneity, race and ethnicity.

Beyond its major and minor, LACS is an intellectual community that cultivates undergraduate and graduate students and faculty innovation. Our undergraduates have created a registered student organization, the Latin American and Caribbean Student Association (LACSA) that has organized academic conferences and social events. Graduate students and faculty across campus participate in works-in-progress seminars that we call our Dangerous Subjects Workshops.

## STUDENTS (AUTUMN 2015)

27	Majors
12	Minors
4	BA Degrees granted (July 2014-June 2015)

## RECENT SEMINARS AND COLLOQUIA

Indigenous Environmental Activism in Central America, with Berta Cáceres & Miriam Miranda

Journalism in Las Americas and The Rojava Experiment: A Secular Utopia in ISIS' s Backyard with Journalist Wesley Enzinna

Prophesizing the Global: A Conversation with Fabrice Monteiro

A Conversation with the First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington DC, Miguel Fraga



Honduran environmental activists Berta Cáceres and Miriam Miranda.

## Outreach

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program organizes colloquia, conferences, special events, and visits by renowned scholars and artists to complement academic offerings and provide students, faculty, and the local community with timely and relevant opportunities to learn about and become involved in issues relevant to Latin America.

LACS also partners with other on-campus programs, centers, departments or student organizations as well as off campus organizations in the greater Seattle community to offer a dynamic series of events and films throughout the year.

## Study Abroad

Studying abroad can be one of the most formative experiences in the life of a student. Though students' reasons for studying abroad are varied, most find that the education, language, and life lessons learned while abroad are immensely rewarding, both professionally and personally. UW faculty regularly offer study abroad programs in Brazil, Mexico, and Peru. Most of the study abroad programs that Jackson School students attend are organized through the UW Study Abroad office.

## Faculty Research and Scholarship

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program currently has 47 affiliated professors. LACS faculty have diverse interests and expertise in Latin America and the Caribbean. Most also have cross-regional and interdisciplinary interests. Faculty members are distinguished scholars and teachers in their respective area of specialization, which include environmental studies, racial and ethnic politics, development, indigenous studies, immigration, music, history, anthropology, post-colonial studies, human rights, sociology of law, democracy, labor migration, sociology, gender politics, education, modern Latin American relations, political science, transnationalism, and much more.

## Future Directions and Priorities

Looking forward, the program has identified the following key areas for growth and development in undergraduate teaching, interdisciplinary graduate training, and public scholarship:

- ▶ The development of new, innovative undergraduate concentrations that combine critical inquiry with an applied approach to urgent social issues. LACS is collaborating with other units to develop minors in Critical Development Studies and Migration and Diaspora.
- ▶ The creation of new graduate student opportunities in Indigenous Studies. LACS faculty have taken the lead in organizing a new Summer Institute on Global Indigenities (SIGI) in collaboration with the Universities of British Columbia, California (Los Angeles), Hawai'i (Manoa), Minnesota (Twin Cities), and Oregon. SIGI is a unique program to provide PhD students from these institutions with intellectual and professional tools to produce knowledge ethically, critically, and collaboratively with Native peoples across the hemisphere and beyond.
- ▶ Building on the success of a 2015 collaboration with a Seattle-based nonprofit called Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle (MAS) that created community-based partnerships with musicians and artists for the Afro-Latino diaspora, we plan to pursue other ways to support the arts in Seattle and create public spaces of learning beyond the university campus.

## LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES FACULTY AFFILIATIONS

American Ethnic Studies

Anthropology

Business Administration

Comparative History of Ideas

Comparative Literature

Economics

Fisheries

Forestry

Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies

Geography

Health Sciences

History

International Studies

Music

Political Science

Romance Languages

Social Work

Sociology



Jose Antonio, Chair, Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Mr. Miguel Fraga, First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, DC. Mr. Fraga spoke at UW on March 3, 2016.

last update: 2016