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Note from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Besides our regular sections, this issue of Colonia/Colônia features a remembrance of our esteemed colleague Elena Altuna, who recently passed away, kindly provided by Beatriz Carolina Peña. We also inaugurate a new occasional section with an interview with Susan Schroeder, France Vinton Scholes Professor of Colonial Latin American History Emerita at Tulane University, whom I thank for her willingness to share her thoughts and experiences.

Once again, I would like to highlight the calls for submissions for the “Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies” and the new Journal of Colonial Latin American Studies, both sponsored by the LASA Colonial Section. The success of these two endeavors depends heavily on the collaboration of students, teachers, and researchers in our field.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome; you may send them to me at Pablo.Garcia@mail.wvu.edu

Sincerely,

Pablo García Loaeza

In Memoriam


Honors, Awards, and Promotions

María Bárbara Zepeda Cortés (History, Lehigh University) was awarded a 2016-2017 Huntington Library long-term fellowship. She is currently at the Huntington working on a book manuscript tentatively titled “The Politics of Reform: José de Gálvez and the Transformation of the Spanish Empire.”
Member Publications

This feature showcases the work of section members and serves to keep the community abreast of the latest published research on field-related topics. For guidelines, see the final section of this newsletter.


This book focuses on how Spanish Americans in Texas used writing as a means to establish new sources of authority, and how a Latino literary and intellectual life was born in the New World. Raúl Coronado explores how Texas Mexicans began the process of viewing the world as no longer being a received order but a produced order. While imagining a new world, Texas Mexicans were undergoing a transformation from an elite community of “civilizing” conquerors to an embattled and racialized group whose voices were annihilated by war. Coronado sees in this process of racialization the birth of an emergent Latino culture and literature. More information.


David Kazanjian revises nineteenth-century conceptions of freedom by examining the ways black settler colonists in Liberia and Mayan rebels in Yucatán imagined how to live freely. Focusing on colonial and early national Liberia and the Caste War of Yucatán, Kazanjian interprets letters from black settlers in apposition to letters and literature from Mayan rebels and their Creole antagonists. By juxtaposing two unheralded and seemingly unrelated Atlantic histories, he reads these overlooked, multilingual archives for how they unsettle and recast liberal forms of freedom within global systems of racial capitalism. The Brink of Freedom’s speculative, quotidian globalities ultimately ask us to improvise radical ways of living in the world. [More information.](#)


Fractional Freedoms explores how thousands of slaves in colonial Peru were able to secure their freedom, keep their families intact, negotiate lower self-purchase prices, and arrange transfers of ownership by filing legal claims. Through extensive archival research, McKinley excavates the experiences of enslaved women whose historical footprint is barely visible in the official record. Enslaved women are situated as legal actors who had overlapping identities as wives, mothers, mistresses, wet-nurses and day-wage domestics. Although the outcomes of their lawsuits varied, Fractional Freedoms demonstrates how enslaved women used channels of affection and intimacy to press for liberty and prevent the generational transmission of enslavement to their children. [More information.](#)

Interview: Susan Schroeder

In this occasional section, we present short interviews with senior scholars kindly willing to share what attracted them to colonial Latin American studies, the professional satisfactions they have found working in this field, the major changes they have seen over the course of their careers, their thoughts on the direction its going, and any advice they may have for their junior peers.

We are pleased to feature the comments of Susan Schroeder, France Vinton Scholes Professor of Colonial Latin American History Emerita at Tulane University. Her Ph.D. in History is from the University of California at Los Angeles and her research interests are Nahua Mesoamerica and Nahuatl philology. She has authored numerous works on indigenous perceptions of the conquest, the Jesuits, Nahua as marginal intellectuals, resistance, religion, and women and she is the general editor, coeditor, and cotranslator of the two-volume Codex Chimalpahin (University of Oklahoma Press, 1997), Annals of His Time (Stanford University Press, 2006), and Chimalpahin's Conquest (Stanford University Press, 2010). She is also a very generous and encouraging mentor to her students and her colleagues.

What attracted you to the field of colonial Latin American studies?

It was not Latin America so much that drew me into academia but rather the native peoples of America. When I was in second grade, we built a pueblo in Miss Sherman’s class, and I was hooked. The next year, in Miss Jeffrey’s class we studied the Aztecs and the Mayas. A bonus. Upon completing high school I went to nursing school (then Los Angeles County General Hospital, now, USC Medical Center), intending to obtain a public health credential and work on a native reservation in Arizona. As a graduate nurse, though, I married, and my husband would not let me work. I stayed home and had seven children in eleven years. It was not until the youngest was three that I went to UCLA, took a required class in history (James Lockhart's two-semester Colonial Latin American History course), and my world began to change. Jim encouraged me to apply to graduate school, and he and Jim Wilkie, who taught Modern Latin American History, became wonderful mentors. Regarding my work with Nahuatl materials and the relationship of Nahuas to colonial and/or modern Mexico, I can thank James Lockhart, and before him Charles Gibson, for bringing to light the presence and major contribution of Mexico’s native peoples to the history of colonial Latin American and its aftermath. Growing up in Long Beach, California, though, Latin America was never really a place that was far away. There were many Mexicans in my school, and we were friends. Mexico is such a grand part of southern California life that learning more about it all was no more than learning more about what was already near and dear. I have been fortunate to travel to several countries in Latin America.

What insights have struck you the most?

Among the most fascinating discoveries has been realizing the great number of Nahua peoples in early Mexico who generated and maintained their altepetl histories, how they passed these manuscripts from generation to generation, and how the documents reflected the beliefs of each particular ethnic entity. Each polity had its own understanding of events, and their dates and facts were not always in sync with other accounts. What was important was that it was written down for all to know in the future. What survives is surely only a fraction of all that was once extant. Surely one of the most exciting prospects of our work is to realize how the very important precontact practice of record keeping allowed for the essential continuities of indigenous
traditions into the later centuries, even as justification for and then as celebrated in the Mexican Revolution. It has been a privilege to be even a tiny part of our field of colonial Mesoamerican studies.

**What continues to draw your interest in this field?**
Working with the Nahuatl- and Spanish-language writings by Chimalpahin has afforded me no end of challenges and rewards for close to forty years, and I am still learning. I recently completed a book chapter about the early Mexica migrations, and the research took me back into the precontact era, something that as a colonialist I had not been drawn into, other than to research the continuities over time. Interestingly for me, I have found that many aspects of the early period continued, at least in Chimalpahin’s writings, until the Juárez reforms of the 1850s. Then, and continuing my research on precontact times, there is my forthcoming book about Tlacaeelel, an enigmatic figure of sorts. Yet, it turns out, he seems to have been a kingmaker, and a ruler himself, in many ways, and his descendants carried on his leadership practices into the seventeenth century.

**What has been your greatest professional satisfaction?**
There is not one but many pleasures that have been mine over the course of what turned out to be a quick twenty-five years of teaching. Being in my forties and finding employment was a great surprise, and then later being granted tenure and having a place at Loyola University Chicago for many years was grand. The students, my colleagues, the great city of Chicago afforded much contentment while traveling to Mexico, learning more Nahuatl, and researching early Nahua life while sharing my own life with my family. Then, moving to New Orleans and being a part of a scholarly cohort of Mesoamericanists at Tulane meant that my graduate students would be well launched as they carried on their own careers.

**What are the major changes you have seen in the field throughout your career?**
By the time that I attended graduate school in the field of Latin American colonial history in the late 1970s and early 1980s, institutional history was on the wane. The writing of the biographies of key Latin American figures also faded and never recovered, in spite of it being an ongoing, fashionable, and well-rewarded genre among U.S. academics. The “Berkeley School,” which encouraged new approaches, such as statistical analysis, was strong, and there was increasing interest in political, economic, and social history, surely because of the Cold War funding that increasingly had become available. Subsequently, ethnicity, gender, and race, among other schools of study, became increasingly important, and many, as subfields, have become disciplines in their own right. Howard Cline was one of the pioneers of interdisciplinary studies, and I expect that he would be pleased to see how advanced the field has become and how very eminent and far reaching the organization now is.

For my particular interests, thanks to Charles Gibson, who demonstrated so masterfully that it is possible to study the native peoples of colonial Latin America, the field of ethnohistory, which can largely be said to be a classic example of interdisciplinary studies, brings together art history, anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, literature, religion, and even the possibility of biography once again. The Spaniards and Spanish-language sources had largely been the rule until Gibson in his masterful study of the Aztecs (1964) demonstrated the important, complex world of Nahua life that came to make up the Spaniards’ experience. James Lockhart then led the
way in studying Nahuatl, principally, and by means of the New Philology we are still gaining
great new insights into indigenous concepts of self and society that continued for centuries.
Already literate before the Spanish invasion, the roman alphabet and European paper greatly
contributed to indigenous peoples being able to use their language to safeguard what was most
precious in their lives during the colonial period, whether it was their sociopolitical organization,
property, family, and many aspects of their religion. Their great primordial histories, related,
then written and rewritten, and complemented by architectural survivals, became solid evidence
of a once glorious culture that then was appropriated by Spanish creoles as both Nahua and
Spaniards cultivated and shared their splendid pride of patrimony. Nahua-Spanish
complementarity had been little appreciated heretofore. Lockhart’s work encouraged no end of
his students and others to learn, research, and write about additional native peoples and their
languages. There are some fine scholars, a couple of generations-worth, who are carrying on the
scholarly work of Nahua studies, as well as work on the lives and writings of other peoples in
greater Mesoamerica. The New Philology was followed by the New Conquest History, and so it
continues.

Where do you see the field of colonial Latin American studies going?
Despite much progress, the disciplines of colonial Latin American history and Latin American
studies are relatively small schools of study with relatively small numbers of university faculty
positions, at least compared with academics researching the United States and Europe. Thus, we
have not exhausted our sources, which means that there is still plenty of work to be done. We
still need institutional histories, biographies, and careful cartographies, which furnish the context
and substance as subfields emerge and then merge. We need comprehensive approaches as well
as purposeful syntheses, retrieving early and meaningful contributions in order to contextualize
and substantiate new methods and discoveries. “Transnational” and “Atlantic World,” although
perfectly suited for interdisciplinary studies, seem not to be quite as trendy these days. “The
Caribbean” has held the attention of many researchers for some time now, but what will be in
vogue next, I have no idea. Indeed, it surely does not matter what follows as long as we
capitalize on all the splendid work that exists and use it as a standard to which to aspire, to
validate, and to build upon.

Do you have any advice for our junior colleagues?
I wonder if our junior colleagues would either want or appreciate advice. Rather, I would
encourage all Latin Americanists to never forget the wonder and joy of discovery as they
conduct their research and as they teach; to always read and work with and learn from the best
scholars; to be open and kind; and to strive to be certain that venues for publishing remain
interested in Latin America. They will, if our contributions are of consequence, exciting, and
readable. It is therefore our colleagues’ mandate to privilege Latin America, so that everyone
will.
Graduate Student News
This feature highlights the work of the newest members of our field. For guidelines, see the final section of this newsletter.

Employment attained

Caroline Egan (PhD in Comparative Literature, Stanford University) joined the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in the University of Cambridge as Lecturer in Colonial Literary and Cultural Studies in September 2016.

Published Articles


Papers Presented at Professional Conferences


Grants and Fellowships Awarded

Kevin Sedeño-Guillén (Hispanic Studies, University of Kentucky) The Pilar Sáenz Annual Student Essay Prize, by the Ibero-American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (IASECS), Pittsburgh, PA, for his essay “Del tiempo al espacio de la modernidad: lugares coloniales del conocimiento en las Américas del siglo XVIII” (April 2016).

Megan McDonie (History, Pennsylvania State University) Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, granted by the Social Science Research Council (2016); James R. Scobie Award from the Conference on Latin American History (2016); Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship awarded from Tulane University to study Kaqchikel Maya (2016).
Other News

Colonial section reception at LASA 2016

During LASA 2016, an informal reception was sponsored by the Colonial Section of the Latin American Studies Association and the Colonial Latin American Review journal. The reception was held on Friday, May 27, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:00 in the lounge of the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages of the CUNY Graduate Center. It was organized by Kelly McDonough, Kris Lane, and Raquel Chang-Rodriguez, who was a very gracious host to the numerous attendees. Beatriz Carolina Peña, Mélida Bejarano Sánchez, and Aleksín Rodríguez from the CUNY Graduate Center generously assisted in the organization of the event.

At the reception, Kris Lane, editor of the Colonial Latin American Review, publicly announced the winner of the Franklin Pease G.Y. Memorial Prize for the best article published in the journal in 2013 and 2014. The winner was Cécile Fromont for her article “Dancing for the King of Congo: From Early-Modern Central Africa to Slavery-Era Brazil” (CLAR 22.2, April 2013). An honorable mention was awarded to Ananda Cohen Suárez, who was present at the event, for her article “Painting Andean Liminalities at the Church of Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru” (CLAR 22.3, December 2013). The jury members for the award were Júnia Furtado (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), Consuelo Varela (Escuela de Estudios Hispanoamericanos), and William B. Taylor (University of California, Berkeley).
New LASA Colonial Section’s Communications Manager

Estimados miembros de la Sección Colonial,

Me complace mucho informarles que, a partir de enero, Caroline Egan va a reemplazarme como encargada de las comunicaciones (Communications Manager) de la sección. Desde el año pasado, ella ha llevado a cabo la actualización periódica de la lista de correos electrónicos y, desde el verano, ha mandado la información que hemos repartido. A partir del año nuevo, Caroline también se encargará de mantener y mejorar nuestro sitio web, y de trabajar con Nathan Gordon para协调用 de los medios sociales. Estoy muy agradecido, pues sé que Caroline va a hacer un trabajo excelente, y porque ella ha asumido este compromiso con la Sección Colonial durante el primer año de su nuevo trabajo en la Universidad de Cambridge.

Atentamente,
Clayton McCarl

Opportunities and Calls for Papers

Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies

The Colonial Section of the Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce the 2nd “Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies.”

Submission Guidelines: Each candidate must submit one letter of support provided by their dissertation director or a member of their dissertation committee, along with a resume (2 pages max.) and an abstract (4 pages double-spaced max.) summarizing their dissertation and describing the contributions they feel it makes to the field. These materials (written in either Spanish or English) must be submitted to Dr. Pablo García Loaeza (Pablo.Garcia[at]mail.wvu.edu), chair of the Awards Committee, by email as PDF files by December 21, 2016 at the latest. Students who have defended doctoral dissertations related to any aspect of the study of colonial Latin America at any PhD-granting institution worldwide are eligible to apply. Please note that only dissertations defended between January 2014 and by December 2016 will be eligible for this competition.

An interdisciplinary jury of respected scholars of Colonial Latin America will select the top 5 finalists who will be notified by February 1, 2017. The top 5 finalists will then be invited to submit a PDF of their final dissertation, as deposited, by February 8, 2017.

The 2017 winner will be notified by March 31, 2017 and will receive the award of $500 and a certificate of recognition at the 2017 LASA Congress Colonial Section Meeting in April-May, which will be held in Lima, Peru.

For more information and submission guidelines please contact the Chair of the Awards Committee: Dr. Pablo García Loaeza (Pablo.Garcia[at]mail.wvu.edu).

Members of LASA Colonial who would like to financially contribute to this generous award in memory of Maureen Ahern should contact Dr. Mónica Díaz (monica.diaz[at]uky.edu).
Journal of Colonial Latin American Studies

During the LASA congress in New York, at the colonial section’s meeting, Raúl Marrero-Fente and Pablo García Loaeza proposed the creation of a new peer-reviewed scholarly journal sponsored by the section. The proposal was endorsed by all section members present at the meeting. The title of this new forum for our discipline is Journal of Colonial Latin American Studies (JCLAS).

Section members committed to promoting the best scholarship in the field of colonial Latin American studies are invited to join us in this new project as members of the editorial and advisory boards, and/or as book reviewers and/or referees. As a multidisciplinary section, the editors encourage the participation of scholars from different disciplines. Please send a letter of interest specifying in which capacity you would like to participate (editorial board, advisory board, book reviewer, and/or referee) to rmarrero@umn.edu.

The Journal of Colonial Latin American Studies (JCLAS) is an open access interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research in the field of colonial Latin American studies. It is the official scholarly publication of the colonial section of LASA. The journal is currently hosted by West Virginia University and benefits from technical support from the University of Minnesota.

JCLAS is an international endeavor that brings together a multidisciplinary network of scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Canada, and the United States. It is open to all scholarly approaches and theoretical perspectives in the humanities and the social sciences, and welcomes articles, review-essays, book reviews, and research notes that reflect the changing perspectives in the field of colonial Latin American studies.

The founding of JCLAS attests to the fact that, in the past few decades, scholarship in colonial Latin American studies has expanded significantly. This field of study has been enriched by an interdisciplinary orientation that has resulted in deeper understanding of cultural production in Latin America during the colonial period, and of the complexities of colonialism in general. Recent work in colonial Latin American studies has been characterized by the crossing of disciplinary boundaries to better analyze a broadening of the range topics, agents, products, and events. Indigenous American authors and women writers of the colonial period, for instance, are now being studied in innovative ways, but much remains to be done in this area. Among the new objects of study are works pertaining to other discursive formations, such as legal texts, scientific documents, material objects, and visual productions, which deserve more attention.

The aim of JCLAS is to promote excellence in research, to provide a platform for in-depth analyses of colonial phenomena, and to break new ground by gathering and disseminating fresh insights liable to suggest new directions for the field. We invite full length original articles (max. 9,000 words) and research notes (max. 4,000 words) in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. The publication frequency is 2 issues per year.

All submitted manuscripts are subject to evaluation by the Editor, the Associate Editor, the Editorial Board, and to blind peer review by two anonymous independent referees. Previously published material and work under consideration elsewhere will not be considered. All submissions should be sent directly to the editor at rmarrero@umn.edu.
Resources

American Society for Ethnohistory (ASE)
Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (AILCFH)
Asociación para el Fomento de los Estudios Históricos en Centroamérica (AFEHC)
Association for Documentary Editing (ADE)
Association for Latin American Art (ALAA)
América Latina Portal Europeo
Blog IguAnalista
College Art Association (CAA)
Colonial Latin America on the MLA Commons
Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)
Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)
Guatemala Scholars Network, and weekly GSN newsletter
Hispanic American Historical Review Online Community
Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana (IILI)
Jostia, the online catalog of the John Carter Brown Library
LASA Colonial Section on Facebook (public page)

About the Colonial Section of LASA and Colonia/Colônia

The Colonial Section of LASA is a forum where those who study the colonial period in Latin America come together across disciplinary boundaries to share information and exchange ideas. The section was formed in the fall of 2012 and currently has over 140 active members in the United States and abroad. The 2016-2017 section officers are Mónica Díaz, University of Kentucky (chair); Pablo García Loaeza, West Virginia University (vice-chair and chair of awards committee); Kelly McDonough, University of Texas at Austin (council member and secretary/treasurer); Nathan James Gordon, University of Colorado Boulder (council member); and Raúl Marrero-Fente, University of Minnesota (council member). Caroline Egan, University of Cambridge, is the section’s communications manager. Nathan James Gordon, University of Colorado Boulder, coordinates our use of social media.

Colonia/Colônia is the quarterly newsletter of the Colonial Section. The editorial staff consists of Pablo García Loaeza, West Virginia University (editor); Rocio Quispe-Agnoli, Michigan State University (assistant editor); Claudia Berrios, Michigan State University; Chloe Ireton, University of Texas at Austin; and Mariana Velázquez, Columbia University (graduate student assistant editors); Clayton McCarl, University of North Florida (editorial advisor). Issues are published in February, May, August, and November. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication.
Members are encouraged to contribute any material that may be of relevance to scholars of the colonial world. In particular, we invite submissions to the following sections:

**Member Publications.** Current members of the Colonial Section are encouraged to send the full citations of material published within the previous calendar year (Chicago author-date style preferred) to Mariana Velázquez, mv2447@columbia.edu. In the case of books, authors may include a brief summary (100-words maximum), a link to further information, and a cover image, to be included at the editors’ discretion and as space allows.

**Colonial Forum.** This section is a space for the expression of ideas and opinions related to our field in the form of “letters to the editor.” Materials should be sent to Pablo.Garcia@mail.wvu.edu.

**Spotlight on the Archives** highlights repositories with collections of interest to scholars in our field. To suggest institutions to be profiled in future issues, please contact Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, quispeag@msu.edu.

**Graduate Student News** is a space for sharing information for and about PhD candidates engaged in the study of colonial Latin America from within any discipline. Graduate students are not required to be section members to participate. Material should be sent to Claudia Berrios, berriosc@msu.edu.

All of the abovementioned sections are included on an occasional basis, as determined by member submissions and editorial discretion.

Listings or summaries of conference sessions should be submitted to Chloe Ireton, c.ireton@utexas.edu.

Calls for papers, awards and distinctions, and any other material should be sent to Pablo García Loaeza, Pablo.Garcia@mail.wvu.edu.

*Colonia/Colônia* does not sell advertising or include general book announcements on behalf of publishers. However, we are always happy to include in “Member Publications” listings for books written or edited by section members.

Previous issues of *Colonia/Colônia* can be accessed on the [Colonial Section website](#).