

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



WHERE PASSION AND EXCELLENCE ENCOUNTER KNOWLEDGE

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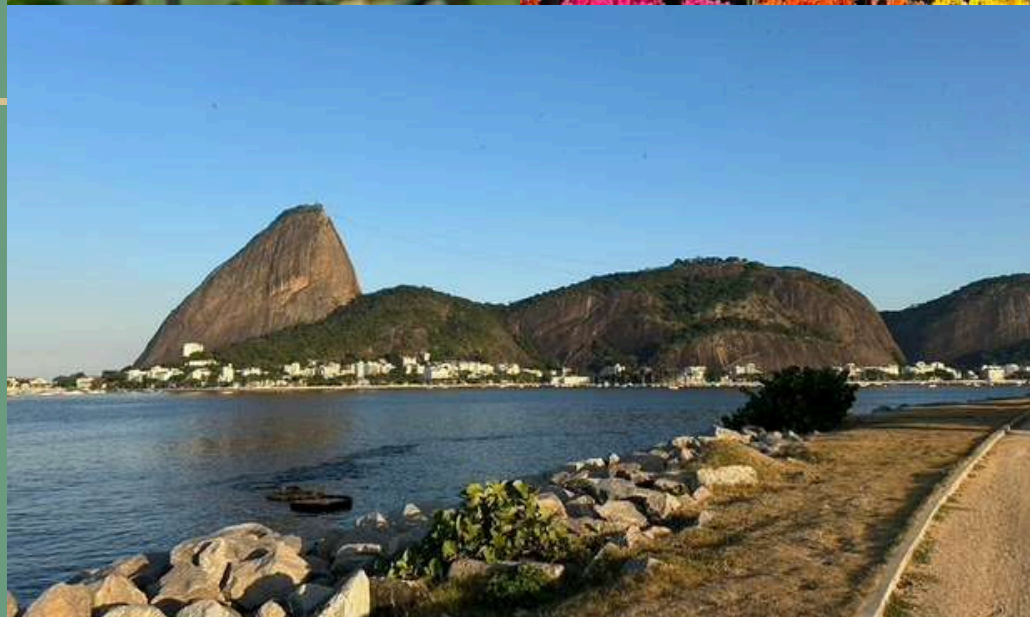
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News from the Director



Dear ISLAC family and friends,

The Spring of 2024 was a hectic semester. ISLAC was involved in organizing or co-sponsoring many relevant events, as you will see throughout the current issue. Among them, two were certainly central and with positive spillovers for the future of ISLAC, USF and Tampa: The First ISLAC Global Symposium and the Tampa International Book Fair, both, held for the first time.

Hosting the **First ISLAC Global Symposium** implied a lot of planning and coordination. It was worth it, as in the end, the event was a success. The Provost, the Dean of CAS and the former USF President Betty Castor came to the opening ceremony, and along Maura Barrios, community historian and co-founder of ISLAC, all expressed their support to ISLAC and its mandate. I am proud to say mission accomplished, as this event not only brought together well-known international scholars but also featured USF alumni and faculty who are recognized Latin Americanist scholars. Moreover, undergraduate and graduate students got participated sharing their research in presentation or poster format. Key to the success of this event were several people, so special thanks to Anabela Villach, Livia Guimarães, Daisy Matos, Jamie Gonzalez and Cindy Stonehouse and her wonderful team from the CAS Office of Communication and Marketing, You can enjoy some of the highlights from the Symposium in this issue.

ISLAC was also involved in the organization of the **First Tampa International Book Fair**. The event took place on March 7-10 in Ybor City showcasing national and international authors, including USF faculty. This First Edition was very promising and the organizing committee is already working on the second edition for 2025.

As the Director of ISLAC, I am proud to be involved in bringing change and innovations to Tampa in issues pertaining Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos. I want to extend a special thank you to all the active participants in this milestone: USF Affiliated Faculty, Students, Community members and organizations. This should be the way forward.

Finally, this May, I represented ISLAC/USF in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I taught a course on international migrations and gave some lectures. Funding came from the Brazilian National Science Foundation (CAPES) and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation was my host. You will be enjoying many of the pictures I took throughout the newsletter.

Last but not least, a kind farewell to Interim Dean Magali Michael and a warm welcome to the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Elizabeth Spiller.

Let us know if you have news to share.

Enjoy the summer!

Beatriz Padilla



ISLAC Past Events



Angela Valenzuela's Lectures

Dr. Valenzuela, Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy and Director of the Texas Center for Education Policy, University of Texas at Austin, visited USF on February 22 and 23, 2024. She gave a lecture on “The Power Of Authentic Cariño (Caring) And Pedagogy In The Third Space: Experiencing The Sacred At Academia Cuauhtli” and a workshop on “Creative Resistance In The Struggle Against Anti-Diversity Policy In Texas”, sharing her own experiences. She advocated for the importance of sociology and Mexican - American Studies in promoting changes in education policies in Texas. Events were co-organized by ISLAC and USF College of Education.

How Florida Helped Shape The Nation's 'Culture Wars

The Department of History in co-sponsorship with ISLAC and other Institutes, hosted a lecture given by **Dr Julio Capo** on “How Florida Helped Shape The Nation's 'Culture Wars': A History Of The 1950s And 60s”. The event took place on February 15.

Dr. **Julio Capo** research centers around South Florida and its relationship with the Caribbean and Latin America through immigration, trade, and tourism, focusing on issues of gender, sexuality, and LGBT history.

The Lecturer explored the social, political, and cultural dynamics that emanated from Florida which contributed to the broader narratives of the nation's “culture wars.” He examined vital events, movements, and figures, shedding light on Florida's impact on shaping the ideological battlegrounds that defined the cultural conflicts of the time.



ISLAC Past Events

A history of Afro-Cuban Influence in Tampa Bay

The **LGSO** (Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Association) organized a lecture about "A history of Afro-Cuban Influence in Tampa Bay". ISLAC co-sponsored this event, held on February 27 as part of the celebrations of Black History Month.



The speaker was Susan Greenbaum, Professor Emerita USF Anthropology, who presented about the history and contributions of Afro-Cubans to Tampa. Susan Greenbaum worked with members of La Union Marti y Maceo, founded in 1900.

The speaker highlighted the importance of researching in and with the community to bring light to the memories for the local people. During her presentation, she talked about historically relevant figures related to Tampa, such as José Martí, Paulina Pedroza, Teofilo Dominguez, and María Jesus de Vierna. In addition, she talked about the significant impact of Afro-Cuban activists and associations in promoting democracy and the civil rights movement.



ISLAC Past Events

A Literary Date



Madeline Cámara, Natalie Scenters-Zapico, Roberto Jiménez, Josefina Bello, Natalia Lúgaro, Giovanna Rivero and Beatriz Padilla.

We celebrated **International Women's Day** and presented the First Tampa International Book Fair on March 5, at the Judy Genshaft Honors College Forum.

Beatriz Padilla (ISLAC), **Madeline Cámara** (WL), and **Alberto Sicilia** (First Tampa International Book Fair) hosted this event in collaboration with **Lindy Davidson** (Associate Dean of the Judy Genshaft Honors College).

Natalia Lúgaro, **Michael Borntreger** and **Josefina Bello**, WL graduate students, shared their research on women's writers.

Also, well-known authors, **Natalie Scenters-Zapico** (USF) and **Giovanna Rivero**, delighted the audience by reading excerpts from their books and sharing their writing processes. The Bolivian writer Giovanna Rivero, author of *Tierra fresca de su tumba*, talked about the work of Latin American women writers. Natalie Scenters-Zapico, author of *Lima: Limón & The Verging Cities*, shared her experience writing about how young women from the border cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez navigate the machista culture and stories of femicide.

It was an enriching afternoon full of dialogue, appreciation for literature, and the commemoration of the lives of inspiring women.



ISLAC Past Events

Tampa International Book Fair



ISLAC was one of the organizers of the First International Tampa Book Fair, held March 7th-10th in HCC and the Cuban Club in Ybor City.

The fair brought together local and visiting readers and writers, promoting a reading space for children, adolescents and adults, in Spanish and English.

In this multicultural and multilingual event, the public had the opportunity to reflect on the city's unique history, in which the immigrants who settled played a central role in the city's growth and culture.

Several USF faculty presented their books, moderated presentations and read poetry, including **Madeline Camara**, **Pablo Brescia**, **Natalie Scenters-Zapico** and **Susan Mooney**. **Anabela Villach** offered logistic support and **Alysa Sotelo** and **Camilo Loaiza Bonilla** volunteered during the event. Thank you all!

It was a pleasure to collaborate with Gabriel Cartaya and Alberto Sicilia.

More to come in 2025!



ISLAC Past Events

Panel “Latina Power: Voices of Color”



LGSO (Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Association) hosted a panel entitled “Latina Power: Voices of Color”, on March 19, co-sponsored by ISLAC.

The purpose of this activity was to celebrate and amplify the diverse experiences, perspectives, and achievements of Latina women as women of color in graduate school.

Glenda Vaillant Cruz (Ph.D. student in Sociology) was the moderator and the the panel included:

- **Alessandra Inés Ruíz** - MA student in Applied Anthropology and Public Health
- **Emely Matos Pichardo** - Ph.D. Student in Sociology
- **Kiannyz Morales Rios** - MA Student in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health
- **Julia Lopes De Paulo** - MA student in Management with a concentration in Project Management



This event represented a meaningful opportunity for bonding and validation regarding their everyday experiences.

Mentorship was referred to as a fundamental resource for Latina graduate students, and both ISLAC and the Hispanic Professional of Women Association were acknowledged as crucial entities providing this support.



ISLAC Past Events

The Afro-Digital Museum: Afro-Brazilian History, Culture and Collective Memory

ISLAC co-sponsored with the Department of Anthropology a lecture on Afro-Brazilian History, Culture and Collective Memory, by **Dr Livio Sansone** (Department of Anthropology, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil). The event was held on April 16.

New communication technologies profoundly impact the construction of collective memory, identity formation and the development of heritage infrastructure. With the communication revolution, new claims for representation have emerged from subaltern groups. Tracing the development of the Afro-Digital Museum founded at the Universidade Federal da Bahia in Salvador, Brazil, and now part of a network of educational organizations, Dr. Livio Sansone discussed the challenges and successes involved in repatriating and documenting materials related to Afro Brazilian memory, history, culture, and collective memory.



ISLAC Past Events

7th Interdisciplinary Symposium on Qualitative Methodologies: Qualitative Inquiry Across Disciplines

Hosted by the Student Organization for Qualitative Methodologies at the University of South Florida, April 19 and 20, this symposium provided a space where students, faculty, and other participating researchers can engaged in scholarly conversations that will contribute towards understanding diverse qualitative methodologies and their applications.

ISLAC was present in this relevant event. Dr Beatriz Padilla participated in a panel on “Multicultural and International Research”. Dr Dora Arreola (Arts) was a discussant for a panel on “Exploring Art and Trauma with Two Forms of Interviewing: A Workshop.” Michelle Angelo-Rocha, Ph.D., former ISLAC student presented a paper on “Transcending Immigration Borders: Technology, Community-Based Research, and Qualitative Inquiry” and Glenda Vaillant Cruz, Sociology-ISLAC affiliated student presented a paper on “Constructing a Place within Spanish Universities: Unpacking the Ethnoracial Experiences of Latino, Latin American, Afro-Latino, and Afro-Latin American Students”.



ISLAC provided funding for the Distinguished Paper Award which was given to **Umi Saidah** and **Yohanis Carrera**, for their paper titled "A duoethnography on teaching languages using digital technologies: Identity and agency." Congratulations!!!

ISLAC Student Spotlight



Barbara Herrera defended her Master Thesis

Barbara Herrera, a student of the Master in Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, successfully defended her thesis, "Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Education, and Bilingualism: Ethnography of a STEM Program for Elementary Students in Southwestern Florida." The examining committee was composed of Kiran Jayaram, Beatriz Padilla, and Rebecca Zargar. We are so happy about your success, Barbara!



Joel Alvarez published about Indigenous philosophy



Joel Alvarez published two articles, "Native American Epistemology Through Dreams" and "Spinozism and Native American on Pantheism and Panentheism," in December 2023. We invite you to read them!

He also collaborated with grad students from the Department of Philosophy in organizing the 17th Annual PGSO Conference of Religious Experiences.



ISLAC Student Spotlight

Recent MALACS' Graduates:

Barbara Herrera, Yasmeen Armoush, and Josefina Bello

ISLAC is excited to congratulate **Barbara Herrera, Yasmeen Armoush and Josefina Bello** on graduating with a the Master's in Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies this May 2024.

Barbara Herrera's future is bright. She has been accepted to the University of Florida's PhD program in Anthropology for Fall 2024 to work with Dr. John Richard Stepp.



Barbara Herrera

During her coursework she plans to pursue a Tropical Conservation certificate and continue to work on the ethnobotany of the Caribbean. Ms. Herrera has been awarded with the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to learn Haitian Creole, the Mcknight Fellowship and an Assistantship from the department of Anthropology.

Best of luck Barbara!

Josefina Bello will continue to work as an Adjunct Instructor of Spanish in the World Language Department at USF. We count on you in the near future.

Congratulations Josefina!

Yasmeen Armoush will continue working as a Literacy Coordinator for a non-profit in the Tampa Bay Area. This job is great opportunity to connect and contribute in the community, applying what she learned at USF.



Yasmeen Armoush



Josefina Bello

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Beatriz Padilla was the Keynote speaker at the 18th Florida Society of Social Sciences Conferences



In her lecture “Practice of Resistance against Discrimination and Prejudice in Academia,” Dr. Padilla reflected on the importance of academic freedom and the impact of censorship in research. Moreover, she analyzed the discrimination and abuses that Latin American women suffer in their educational journey, using the example of the mobilization of Brazilian female students at the University of Coimbra in Portugal.

The presentation contributed to a debate where students expressed their concerns about the conditions that threaten research. Dr. Padilla highlighted that questioning is essential in academia, since it shapes how knowledge is constructed.

The Florida Society of Social Sciences (F3S) is a UF graduate student organization that aims to cross-fertilize social and humanistic sciences, provide spaces where emerging scholars can grow and cooperate while promoting social justice, and provide opportunities for all students to develop their professional skills & research agendas.

The conference held on April 13 was an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to present innovative research, brainstorm ideas, and collaborate with peers from several Florida colleges and universities. Anabela Villach presented a paper entitled “Paradiplomacy in Argentina and Brazil. A perspective from their federal governments.”



ISLAC Abroad - Brazil

Dr. Beatriz Padilla was awarded a fellowship to visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Dr Padilla received a Visiting Scholar Fellowship, granted by the Brazilian National Science Foundation (CAPES) associated with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. She partnered with Dr Isabela Cabral Felix de Sousa, who was a visiting fellow at ISLAC and USF in the Fall of 2023.

During her visit, she taught a course entitled “Migrations and mobilities in global contexts: migration and integration policies, and international health”.

The first part of the course introduced students to concepts, general topics associated with migrations and policies, and multilevel governance of migrations.

The second part focused on health and migrations, exploring issues related to the international mobility of health professionals, the World Health Organization's ethic code to hire and recruit foreign health professionals and all issues related to the recognition of diplomas from abroad to be able to work in the health-related professions (medicine, nursing, dentistry, psychology, among others), reviewing some concrete international cases.



ISLAC Abroad - Brazil

NIEM Lecture

O Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Estudos Migratórios convida para a apresentação e debate:

"Trajetórias de refúgio: gênero, interseccionalidade e políticas públicas em Portugal"

com

Beatriz Padilla



Mestre e Doutora em Sociologia pela University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Professora Associada no Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of South Florida. Professora Convidada no College of Public Health, USF. Diretora do Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, USF. Pesquisadora Associada do Instituto Universitario de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL)

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/sociology/people/faculty/beatriz-padilla.aspx>

Data e horário: dia 09/05/2024, das 16:00 às 18:00

Local: Biblioteca do NIEM e Sala Zoom (evento híbrido)

Endereço: Rua da Lapa, 120, 2º andar, sala 204 [não é na sobreloja]

Link para acesso: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89813248367?pwd=RXlDNmRlNDUrdFNaeKROVzNPY3dwUT09>

<http://niem.com.br/>

Research and Travel Awards

ISLAC proudly supports students' research and academic success and progress.

This year several ISLAC affiliated students have received travel grants and research fellowships.

The most recent recipients are: **Julissa Ramírez, Glenda Vaillant Cruz, Anabela Villach, Tailyn Osorio and Viktoryia Sliaptsova.**



1st ISLAC Symposium

Opening remarks

On April 11th and 12th, ISLAC held its First Global Symposium “**Mapping Contemporary Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean**” celebrating academic excellence, cultural impact, and community engagement. It brought together esteemed scholars, community leaders, and passionate advocates to lead the discussion about current Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos issues.

The opening ceremony featured USF Provost Prasant Mohapatra, Interim CAS Dean Magali Michael, Betty Castor, Former USF President, Maura Barrios, community historian and Beatriz Padilla, ISLAC.



Magali Michael, Interim Dean College of Arts & Sciences, Prasant Mohapatra, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, Betty Castor, Former USF President, Beatriz Padilla, ISLAC Director in the opening ceremony.



Maura Barrios, Community Historian of Tampa Bay



Institutes and Centers for the Study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos: Roles and Challenges

Our first panel delved into the critical roles and challenges faced by institutes and centers dedicated to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. Moderated by Alejandra Marquez from USF Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, the session featured thought-provoking discussions by:

- **Beatriz Padilla**, USF Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences/ISLAC. “*Centers and Institutes: International Comparative Perspectives*”
- **Angelina Cotler**, Johns Hopkins University. “*The main challenges programs in Latin American and Latinx Studies face in the current political climate in the U.S.*”
- **Angela Vergara**, University of Central Florida. “*Navigating Success: The Impact of Latin American Student Presence on Academic Achievement in a Hispanic-Serving Institution*”



1st ISLAC Symposium



Migrations Across the Americas

This session delved into the complex dynamics of migration within the Americas, exploring policy frameworks, regional cooperation, and public health implications associated with migration routes. Moderated by Dr. Beatriz Padilla, panelists discussed the challenges and strategies for integrating migrants and refugees, highlighting the interconnected nature of migration and public health in the region.

- **Luciana Gandini**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. *“Migration policies and prolonged transit in the Americas: the contemporary mobility context”*
- **Betilde Muñoz Pogossian**, Organization of American States. *“Regional agenda for the inclusion of migrants and refugees in the Americas”*
- **Arlene Calvo**, USF Health/College of Public Health. *“Migrants’ Route in Latin America and its Impact in Public Health”*



International Experiences in Education

During the session moderated by Lauren Braunstein from the USF College of Education, attendees discussed challenges and strategies in diverse educational settings, from K-12 public schools to Spanish universities and STEM programs for immigrant youth in the US.

- **Michelle Angelo-Rocha**, USF College of Education. *“Navigating Educational and Migration Borders: Experiences of Emergent Multilingual Latinx and Caribbean Mothers in K-12 Public Schools”*
- **Glenda Maria Vaillant Cruz**, USF Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences/ISLAC. *“Constructing a Place Within Spanish Universities: Unpacking the Ethnoracial Experiences of Latino, Latin American, Afro-Latino, and Afro-Latin American Students”*
- **Lindy Davidson**, USF Judy Genshaft Honors College. *“To Make a Long Story Short: Faculty Study Abroad Experiences in Latin America”*
- **Liliana Villavicencio, Omar Guerra, Wilfrido Moreno**, USF College of Engineering. *“Leveraging Latino Immigrant Youth for Future STEM Success in the USA”*
- **Emely Matos Pichardo**, USF Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. *“Exploring Integration: A Systematic Literature Review of Newcomer Programs Serving Latinx Adolescents Education Policies”*

1st ISLAC Symposium

Latin Americans in the Diaspora

In the session moderated by Kersuze Simeon-Jones from USF School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies/ISLAC, presenters explored topics such as race and racism in the Dominican Republic, criminal justice issues in Central America, and the impact of political education on migrant women's social integration in Colombia.

- **Edlin Veras**, Swarthmore College. *“Caribbean Apartheid: Race, Racism, and the Law in the Dominican Republic”*
- **T. Adam Golob**, Gulf Coast State College. *“Central American Criminal Justice: Nuances of Exploitation, Impunity, and Victimization”*
- **María Auxiliadora González Malabet**, UNINORTE, Colombia *“Impact of the Political Incidence School for Migrant Women: A Case of Social Integration between Venezuelan Migrants and Colombian Leaders in the Colombian Caribbean Coast”*



Borders, Crime, and Mobilization

Moderated by Dr. Molly Hamm-Rodriguez from USF College of Education, in this session presenters delved into topics such as the migrant care crisis on the US-Mexico border, the political engagement of exiled Colombian women in Europe, and the legal implications of transit through Western Amazonian territories.

- **Alejandro Márquez**, USF Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences/ISLAC. *“Deter-care chain: how the state creates, and the immigrant rights movement addresses, the migrant care crisis on the US-Mexico border”*
- **Anastasia Bermúdez Torres**, University of Seville, Spain. *“The Colombian diaspora in Europe and the Truth Commission: the role of exiled women in the political space”*
- **Richard Kernaghan**, University of Florida. *“Rivers in nomos: sounding law from transit through Western Amazonian terrains”*



1st ISLAC Symposium



Exploring the Cultural Contributions of Virtual Global Exchange: Students from the University of South Florida and the Universidad Marista de Mérida de México (UMM)

The hybrid/interactive panel focused on the cultural contributions of virtual global exchange, featuring students from the University of South Florida (USF) and the Universidad Marista de Mérida de México (UMM).

- **Margarita Altuna, Rachel Hipkins, Tyler Green, Milysha Castaneda**, USF World Languages
- **Victoria Albertos González, Martha Villalón, Alessandra Rivero Baeza and Eduardo Xool**, UMM Departamento de Idiomas



Social and Civic Transformation “Here” and “There” - Teaching About and Engaging with Latin America and the Caribbean

The second session of the day delved into teaching about and engaging with Latin America and the Caribbean. Presentations covered topics such as language and social justice, Liberatory Imaginaries of Caribbean Youth through reading and writing, Afro-Mexican identity and justice, citizenship, and the incorporation of oral histories into secondary classroom teaching about the region.

- **Dr. Molly Hamm-Rodriguez**, USF College of Education. *“Language and Social Justice: Youth Participatory Action Research in the Dominican Republic”*
- **Dr. Clarence Walker, Jr.**, USF College of Education. *“16 Shades of Blackness: Afro-Mexicans, Justice, and Citizenship”*
- **Dr. Bárbara Cruz and Dr. Deanna Michael**, USF College of Education. *“Oral Histories in the Secondary Classroom: Teaching about Latin America and the Caribbean”*



1st ISLAC Symposium

Poster Presentations



Marking our last session of the day, undergraduate and graduate students had the chance to present their research about various topics in Latin America and the Caribbean. While students presented their posters, a jury walked around to evaluate the best undergraduate and graduate posters, which was announced at the end of the symposium.

- **Matheus Ivanesciuc**, USF Judy Genshaft Honors College. *“Poorly Functioning Institutions Undermine Development In Latin America: A Comparison Between Two Perspectives on the Same History”*
- **Fidel Galaura**, USF Judy Genshaft Honors College. *“HIV stigma within the Dominican Republic”*
- **Julianna Heitman**, USF Judy Genshaft Honors College. *“Game of Bones: Orthopedic Injuries and Outcomes in the Dominican Republic”*
- **Courtney Bauer**, USF Judy Genshaft Honors College. *“Health and Hygiene in the Dominican Republic: Unveiling Structural Violence”*
- **Ana Medeiros**, USF Judy Genshaft Honors College. *“Development and Economy in Latin America: A comparison of Kingson and Svampa’s books”*
- **Geeti Anwar**, USF Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences *“Latinx Youth in Education: Transitions and Trajectories Beyond High School”*
- **Julissa Maria Ramirez Perez**, USF School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. *“The Law that Targeted a Group: Immigration Law in Costa Rica and its impact on Nicaraguan immigrants”*
- **Anabela Cibele Villach Vaquer**, USF School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. *“Paradiplomacy in Argentina and Brazil: A perspective from their federal governments”*

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to undergraduate student **Fidel Galaura** and graduate student **Julissa Maria Ramirez Perez** for their outstanding achievement in winning the Best Poster awards in their respective categories.

1st ISLAC Symposium



Democracies and Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderated by Angelina Cotler, the session featured insightful presentations exploring various aspects of political dynamics in the region. Topics included the examination of mobilization and repression in a weak democracy post-protest cycle in Peru, challenges faced by the urban elite against mobilized masses in Peru, and the exploration of plurinationalism and the temporalities of revolution in Bolivia.

- **Luis Felipe Mantilla**, USF School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies (SIGS). *“Mobilization and Repression in a Weak Democracy: The Post-December 7th Protest Cycle in Peru”*
- **Harry Vanden**, USF SIGS. *“In Peru, the urban elite trembles as challenged by the mobilized masses”*
- **Aaron Augsburger**, USF SIGS. *“Plurinationalism and the temporalities of revolution in Bolivia”*



Migration and Health

This session was moderated by Mahmooda Khaliq Pasha, from USF College of Public Health, and explored crucial issues at the intersection of immigration and public health. Presentations explored the health challenges faced by women and children immigrants crossing the Darien Gap, the impact of country of origin and clinical data on hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Panama, the mental health status of healthcare workers during the pandemic, and advocacy efforts for climate justice and Latino health.

- **Olga Aranzabal**, USF College of Public Health. *“Navigating the Unseen Path: Understanding the Health Challenges of Women and Children Immigrants Crossing the Darien Gap”*
- **Santiago Hernandez Bojorge**, USF College of Public Health. *“Outcomes of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Panama: impact of country of origin and clinical data”*
- **Tailyn Osorio**, USF College of Arts and Sciences/Salud Latina. *“Exploring the mental health status of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic”*
- **Rolando Trejos**, USF College of Public Health. *“Levantando la Voz for Climate Justice, Latino Health, and Latino Cancer: Advocating for Change Through the Activist Lab”*

1st ISLAC Symposium

History and Culture

Led by Moderator Adriana Novoa from the USF Department of History/ISLAC, in this session attendees explored diverse research topics. Discussions ranged from Ecuador's dynamics during the Cold War era to emerging narratives about the Haitian Other in Dominican social media. Additionally, the session delved into the intriguing historical case of the St. Augustine Uprising of 1795..

- **Zachary Kuntz**, USF Department of History. *“Bananas, Revolutions, and Riots: Ecuador during the Cold War, 1959-1960”*
- **Benjamin Puterbaugh**, USF Department of World Languages – Linguistics. *“Emerging narratives about the Haitian Other in Dominican social media”*
- **Donnie Ibn Malik Ali McClendon**, USF Department of English. *“Theft, Trial, and Treason: The Curious Case of Santiago Duarte and the St. Augustine Uprising of 1795”*



Culture and Literature

In our final session, led by Moderator Roberto Jiménez from the USF Department of World Languages/ISLAC, discussions ranged from analyzing anti-establishment discourse in Jacobo Timerman's work to exploring the transformation of cultural norms through myths like La Llorona. Also, the session examined themes of asexuality in science fiction and the feminist potential in Pat Mora's poetry. Researchers discussed horror as a disruptor in modern Latin American literature and the portrayal of bodies and madness in Moreno-Garcia's "Mexican Gothic."

- **Evguenia Davenport**, USF Department of English. *“Intellectual and Power: Anti-Establishment Discourse in Jacobo Timerman’s Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number”*
- **Victoria Cuomo**, USF Department of English. *“Transformation of the Myth: La Llorona and Redefining Cultural Norms”*
- **Nicholas Colecio**, USF Department of English. *“Asexuality in Ana Cristina Rossi’s Science Fiction”*
- **Alyssa Sotelo**, USF Department of English. *“Latine Feminist Potential in Pat Mora’s Poetry”*
- **Katrina Sandefer**, USF Department of English. *“Horror as a Disruptor in Modern Latin American Literature”*
- **Morgan Hunter**, USF Department of English. *“Maybe she’d gone mad. Bodies and Madness in Moreno-Garcia’s Mexican Gothic”*



1st ISLAC Symposium

As our symposium came to a close, we extended our sincere gratitude to everyone who joined us for this event. Your participation has truly made a difference in fostering academic and community engagement. A special thanks goes out to all the student organizations, USF offices, and community partners who collaborated with us, including the Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Organization, the Caribbean Cultural Exchange Student Organization, the Office of Graduate Studies, and the USF World department. We also express our appreciation to our community partners, including the Hispanic Professional Women's Association, Salud Latina, Tampa Sister Cities, and Black Swan.

Additionally, we want to thank all the volunteers and the dedicated team who worked tirelessly to make this event possible. Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing continued academic excellence and community engagement in the coming academic year and on. Together, we will continue to advance the field of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and make a positive impact in our communities.



LAC News Takeaways

Here are some news and events happening in Latin America and the Caribbean

- **Argentina:** April 23th, tens of thousands took to the streets in Buenos Aires and other province capitals to demand more funding for public universities. Argentina's president Javier Milei, came to office in December of 2023, his campaign announced serious cuts to public spending.
- **Brazil:** The country will host the presidency of The Group of Twenty (G20), the main forum for international economic cooperation. Several Brazilian cities will host relevant meetings, which will conclude with the Summit of Rio of Janeiro, on November 18 and 19. World leaders of the 19 member countries, plus the African Union and the European Union will be in attendance.
- **Colombia:** Tens of thousands of Colombians marched on April 21 to reject economic and social reforms being proposed by President Gustavo Petro.
- **Dominica:** The High Court has overturned a ban on consensual same-sex relations in the Caribbean island nation. The court overruled the criminalized of same-sex relations and they are no longer considered against the country's constitution.
- **Ecuador - Mexico:** On April 5th Ecuadorian police entered by force the Mexican Embassy in Quito and seized Jorge Glas, Ecuador's former vice-president. He had been granted asylum by Mexico just hours earlier. In response, Mexico filed a case before the International Court of Justice.
- **Haiti:** The Prime Minister, Ariel Henry, resigned, and a new council was sworn in to lead the country which has been at stake due to deadly gang violence. Henry's Minister of Economy and Finance, Michel Patrick Boisvert, will be interim prime minister until the transition council appoints a new head of government, a cabinet, and a provisional electoral council set to pave the way for an eventual vote.





Coming soon...

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit ISLAC webpage <http://islac.usf.edu/>

We would love to include other faculty publications and events in our next issue. Please reach out to Laurel Lee's email which is listed below.

If you want to **donate** to ISLAC to support our students, academic program or research, please do so in this page

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