

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



WHERE PASSION AND EXCELLENCE ENCOUNTER KNOWLEDGE

In This Issue

News from the Director

Summer spotlights

ISLAC Past events

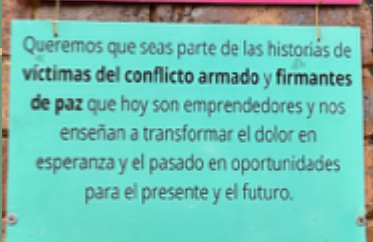
Alumni Spotlights

Faculty Spotlights

Student Spotlights

Upcoming events

LAC takeaways



News from the Director



Dear ISLAC family and friends,

The Summer of 2024 was very active, with faculty presenting in international conferences, students doing fieldwork and attending conferences as well, thus ISLAC and USF have been on the spotlight everywhere.

ISLAC gives a warm welcome to the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), **Elizabeth Spiller** and to **Valerie J. (Jody) Harwood**, CAS Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, who will lead the Institutes and Centers from CAS-USF.

As the Director of ISLAC, I represented USF in several International conferences, Bogotá, Lisbon, Montreal and Panama, sharing findings from my research. Graduate students were supported by ISLAC to develop high impact career opportunities. Anabela Villach (second year MALACS) did a summer internship at the Organization of American States (OAS); Tailyn Osorio (PhD student - Anthropology) visited Barbaros doing preliminary fieldwork to learn more about the lived experience of children with disabilities. Glenda Vaillant Cruz (PhD Student in Sociology) presented her research in Lisbon and was able to conduct follow up interviews in Granada, Spain. Viktoryia Sliaptsova (PhD student - Sociology) began to conduct online interviews on post-soviet family migration to Latin America, focusing on the experience of motherhood.

Since the start of the Fall Semester, ISLAC has been very active tabling in campus events: September 11 at the Latin American and Caribbean Culture Festival (organized by LGSO); September 18 at the “Salud y Ritmo” organized by U.N.I.D.O.S. and the College of Nursing and Shared Students Services, among others. Also, ISLAC was represented at the Faculty Success Expo, held on August 15.

This Fall started very enthusiastically, with many events planned, especially to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, however our agenda was impacted by the hurricanes Helena ad Milton. We are trying to support those who have been impacted while we catch up with work.

ISLAC is partnering with the Latina/e/o/x Graduate Students Organization (LGSO) in several events. The most relevant so far include: the inaugural Hispanic Heritage Awards, the Discussion Panel on Activism in the Latinx Community featuring Jesus Puerto (Soul of Cuba Cafe), Lydia Medrano (League of United Latin American Citizens - LULAC, Diego Dulanto Falcón (Salud Latina), Clara Buie (Assistant Vice-President for Student Success -USF) and myself, Beatriz Padilla (ISLAC - USF), both held on October 1st; and the Latin Night Dance, on October 5th. More is coming, so look up for our events.

Please come to celebrate with us **Dia de los Muertos** (see flyer).

Let us know if you have news to share or celebrate.

Enjoy it!

Beatriz Padilla



Summer Spotlights

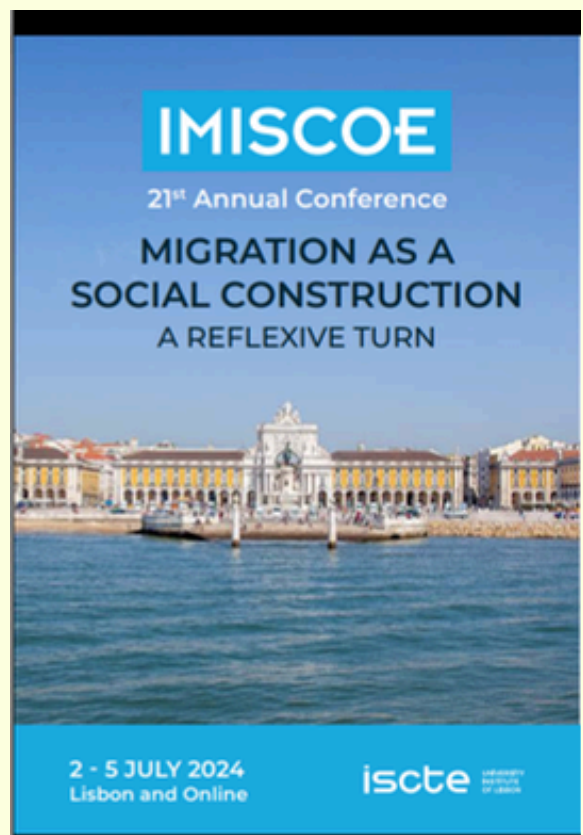
Glenda Vaillant Cruz

In early July, Glenda presented at the **21st IMISCOE Annual Conference** in Lisbon, Portugal. IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network) is the largest interdisciplinary network of scholars in migration. The network comprises 69 research institutes from different countries worldwide and various disciplines, including sociology, political science, anthropology, economics, law, demography, public administration, geography, and history.

This year's conference title was *"Migration as a Social Construction: A Reflexive Turn."* The conference showcased and extended a wave of critical ontological and conceptual reflection labeled as the reflexive turn in current migration research. The interplay between migration law and policy, public debate, rights access, social movements and civil society, and migrants' experiences and actions in destination, transition, and origin countries and their transnational impact across different global regions was explored at the Conference.

Glenda, along with Dr Padilla, presented a paper entitled "Racial/ethnic identities in Spain and the US: Are higher education institutions a venue for activism and social change?"

Congratulations Glenda!!!!



Summer Spotlights

Tailyn Osorio

Tailyn, a PhD Student in Applied Anthropology, was part of a National Science Foundation International Research Experience for Students partly led by Dr. Nancy Romero-Daza and Dr. David Himmelgreen. The research team, comprising of engineers and anthropologists, went to Monteverde, **Costa Rica** for six weeks to investigate wastewater treatment technologies, practices and perceptions.



In addition, Tailyn Osorio is conducting their dissertation research on disabilities in Barbados. They have been conducting preliminary research and establishing connections with various community members. Tailyn received an ISLAC research travel grant for one of their research trips.

Well done Tailyn!!!



Summer Spotlights

Julissa Ramirez

This summer she visited Washington DC. On her visit she expanded her knowledge on the nations capital and saw many of the iconic sights.

This visit helped her gain new ideas for her thesis research.

Recently, Julissa started to conduct interviews for her thesis which focuses on capturing the personal experiences of Cuban migrants who have recently settled in the Tampa Bay area, exploring their migration process, challenges, and adaptation to life in the U.S.

Way to go Julissa!!!



Summer Spotlights

Anabela Villach Vaquer

Anabela's internship at the Organization of American States (OAS), specifically in the Department of Social Inclusion, was a transformative experience for her. It not only enriched her professionally but also contributed significantly to her personal growth. Anabela had the opportunity to learn first-hand about the work at the OAS to promote social inclusion and access to rights for migrants and vulnerable groups across the Americas.

Anabela's journey was about learning and participating in events of significant political and institutional relevance for the continent. She had the unique opportunity to engage in activities within the General Assembly, a special meeting of the Permanent Council and visiting the World Bank.

Congratulations!!!



ISLAC Past Events

Salud Latina and ISLAC in Panama



September 9 and 10, USF Health - Salud Latina, co-sponsored with ISLAC and City of Knowledge (Panama), held the First International Migration and Health Symposium. The event was well attended and many international organizations were represented in this groundbreaking international event, where both migration and health policies were discussed. Several United Nations organizations were represented, such as the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, World Organization for Animal Health, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UN Population Fund.

Along UN Agencies, several United States Organizations were represented such as the CDC - Caribbean and Central American Regional Office and the USAID/HIV Office. Some Panamenian offices were also involved such as the Panama's Health Ministry, the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies and the Yaguará Panama Foundation. Last but not least, the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), representatives from Colombia and Ecuador contributed with their experience and point of views.



Dr Calvo from the College of Public Health did an amazing job, and ISLAC is proud to have partnered with Salud Latina in this groundbreaking academic and policy-oriented event.



**BRAVO
DR
CALVO!!**

ISLAC Past Events

Latin American and Caribbean Cultural festival

ISLAC was present in the *Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Festival* organized by LGSO (Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Association), held on September 11. The event had food, games, and prizes, and several Latin American and Caribbean organizations participated.



Salud y Ritmo



This event, held on September 18, was organized by U.N.I.D.O.S. in collaboration with the College of Nursing, Shared Student Services, and the Latin Dance Club.

In the context of Hispanic Heritage Month, this activity connected USF Health & community organizations and promoted activities about the health issues faced by Hispanic/Latinx communities.



Attendants had the opportunity to engage with the Hispanic/Latinx culture and move to the rhythm with a dance lesson!

ISLAC Past Events

Hispanic Heritage Awards



ISLAC participated in the Hispanic Heritage Awards held on October 1 and hosted by the Status of Latinos (SOL), and Latin Community Advisory Council (LCAC), both Presidential Advisory Committees. The event gathered distinguished Latin American and Caribbean representatives from our community. Attendants enjoyed a musical performance, and keynote speakers inspired the audience with their professional and personal life experiences. Community members, students, and faculty were recognized in the awards ceremony. LGSO tabled during the event.



ISLAC Past Events

Activism in the Latinx Community

The **Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Organization (LGSO)**, co-sponsored with ISLAC, hosted this panel on October 1, in the context of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Participants included Beatriz Padilla, Director of ISLAC and Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences; Diego Dulanto Falcon, MPH Student, Graduate Assistant, and Salud Latina Iniciativa; Jesus Puerto, Founder and CEO Soul de Cuba Café; Lydia Medrano, Director Florida District One League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); and Clara Buie, Assistant Vice President for Student Success at the University of South Florida.

The panelists shared their personal thoughts and experiences about several crucial Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx communities issues. They discussed how their Latinx heritage shaped their lives and the impact it had on their personal and professional goals. The speakers referred to what being Latina/o/x means, the importance of taking action towards inclusivity, sense of belonging, and representation in politics and civil society, including voting; and how important is to bring people together.

In their opinion, the challenges that Latin American and Caribbean communities face include language barriers, undocumentation, and intergenerational traumas. They also emphasized that responding to those challenges is necessary to reinforce confidence, resilience, and the uniqueness of the mixed Latino cultures in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Furthermore, the panelists acknowledged the relevant role played by family and community in their lives.

Concerning student empowerment and actions to be taken, the panelists encouraged the audience to participate in civil engagement activities, recognize and speak from their own identity, understand the history of the Latin American and Caribbean communities, seek and provide personal and professional mentorship, be aware of the importance of self-care and community care, be informed, take part in students organizations and leadership positions.

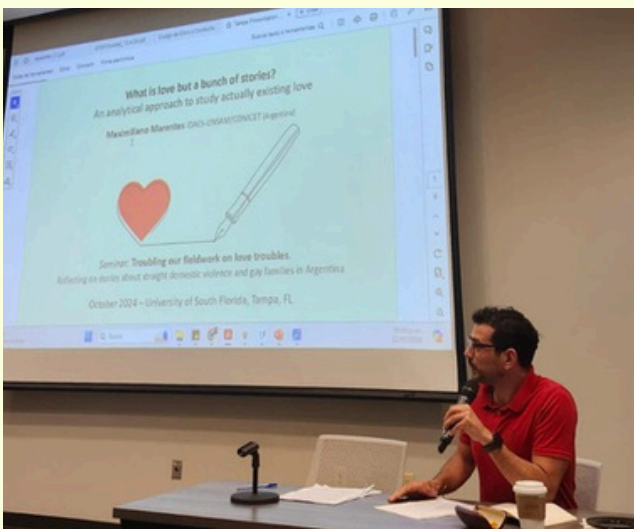


ISLAC Past Events

Troubling our fieldwork on love troubles

Maximiliano Marentes and Mariana Palumbo, esteemed researchers from the National University of San Martin (UNSAM) and the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Argentina, provided insightful perspectives on straight domestic violence and gay families in their country. While Marentes' presentation was about "What is love but a bunch of stories? An analytical approach to study existing love", Palumbo's was "Towards a reinterpretation of the concept of victim IN violence studies against women".

This event was held in partnership with Women, Gender and Sexualities Studies, in the context of Hispanic Heritage Month and given that October is "Relationship Violence Awareness" month. Students played a crucial role in the seminar, actively participating with questions that not only stimulated a debate but also enriched the discussion. It was also well attended, with an audience of over 60 people.



Alumni Spotlights

Andrea Cetré: Championing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

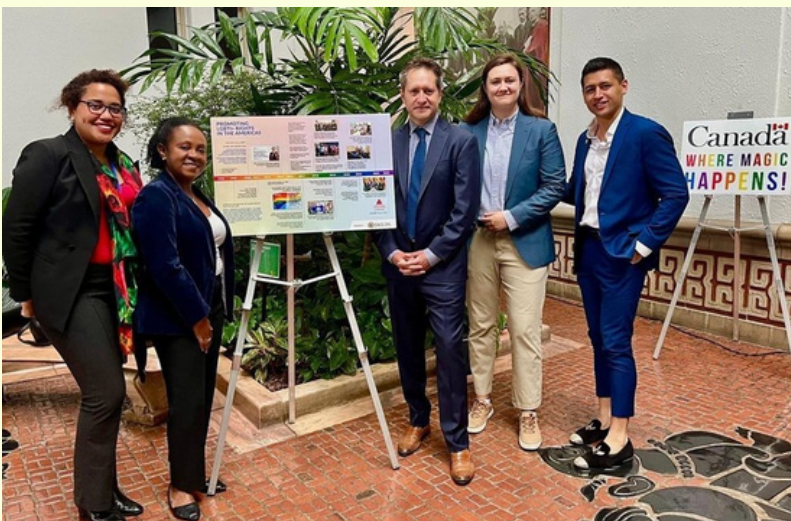
Since July of this year, Andrea has taken on the Diversity, Equity, and Social Inclusion Consultant role at the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) in the Social Inclusion Department of the **Organization of American States** (OAS). In this new role, she is involved in a project that focuses on Haiti, collaborating with the Haitian National Police to integrate gender and intersectional approaches in policy-making, and in monitoring grassroots organizations. This new position is based in Washington, D.C.

In her own words: “Leaving ISLAC after graduation in 2022 marked a pivotal moment in my career. Once I returned to Colombia, I knew I had to make decisions about my path, and international cooperation was always on my radar. The mentorship from ISLAC was crucial in shaping my vision for the future.”

Andrea feels a deep connection to the United States due to its rich multicultural and ethnic tapestry. She always dreamed of returning. With Dr. Padilla’s guidance, she participated in the 2024 Latin American Studies Conference in Colombia and reached out to ISLAC networks, including an insightful conversation with Dr. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, a USF alumna. After interviews with the OAS team, she was selected for her current role.

Living in Washington, D.C., presents challenges as she adapts to the fast-paced, metropolitan life. Yet, the opportunity to learn and grow alongside a high-caliber team makes every effort worthwhile. She expresses her heartfelt gratitude to ISLAC for illuminating her professional abilities.

ISLAC celebrates your achievements, Andrea, and wish you continued success in your professional journey!



Faculty Spotlights

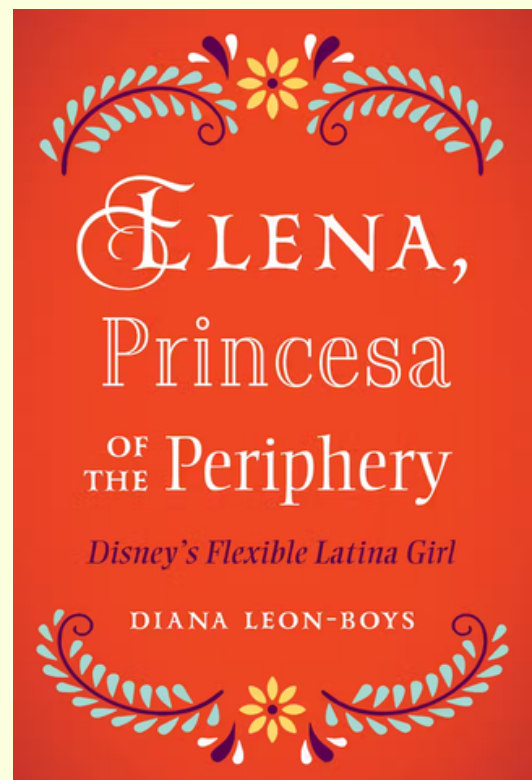
Dr. Diana Leon-Boys Awarded with Book of the Year

ISLAC is proud to congratulate Dr Diana Leon-Boys for her outstanding achievement. Her book, *“Elena, Princesa of the Periphery: Disney's Flexible Latina Girl”*, was distinguished with the National Communication Association - Critical and Cultural Communication Studies Division (CCSD) Book of the Year Award. This recognition is a testament to the intellectual depth and creative nature of her work.

This is the third time that the Association awarded Diana. The other two were the -2023 National Communication Association's Feminist and Gender Studies Division Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award and the 2024 National Communication Association's Latino/a Communication Studies Division and La Raza Caucus Book of the Year Award.

The book's link is here: [Elena, Princesa of the Periphery.](#)

Congratulations DIANA!!!



Faculty Spotlights

Dr. Elizabeth Aranda received the 2024 ASA Award for Public Sociology

Elizabeth Aranda, Professor in the Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Director of the Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center and ISLAC Affiliated Faculty, at USF, was recognized with the 2024 Award for Public Sociology in the field of International Migration from the American Sociological Association (ASA).

This award “recognizes the work of a member of the International Migration Section who applies scholarly knowledge for public use. Congratulations Dr Aranda!



Drs Leon-Boys, Marquez and Maldonado received 2024 Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Program

Three ISLAC Affiliated members received the 2024 Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Award: Dr Diana Leon-Boys (Communications), Dr José Ángel Maldonado (English) and Dr Alejandro Márquez (Sociology).

This cohort will study the social, cultural, and political relationship between Latin America and the United States, with a particular focus on “democratic violence. The conference they are organizing will take place in March 2025.

Congratulations!



Faculty Spotlights

New Publications



Migration Studies, 2024, 12, mnae037
<https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnae037>
Original Article

OXFORD

Media representations of Venezuelan migration in Portugal and Argentina: Between exceptionalism and a returning diaspora

Beatriz Padilla ^{1,2,*}, Thais França ², and Cecilia Melella³

¹Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States

²ISCTE-Instituto Universitario de Lisboa, CIES-ISCTE, Lisbon, Portugal

³Instituto Gino Germani, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Corresponding author. Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States. E-mail: padillab@usf.edu

The "Venezuelan Humanitarian Crisis: Migration, Trauma and Resilience" was a project funded by USF NEXUS Initiative few years ago. This project had two partners abroad, in Argentina and Portugal. We are still publishing, so here is the most recent output published in **Migration Studies**!

On the other hand, with colleagues from Spain, Ecuador, and Argentina, we organized a **Special Issue** focusing on turbulent times and crises that affect migrants and migrations in the Americas and Europe. Recently the Special Issue we coordinated and our introduction was published in **International Migrations**.

DOI: 10.1111/imig.13292

SPECIAL ISSUE ARTICLE



'In-betweeners' in turbulent times: Migrants in the epicentre of diverse 'crises' in the Americas and Europe

Ana Margheritis¹  | Anastasia Bermúdez²  | Gioconda Herrera³ | Beatriz Padilla⁴

¹National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) & Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina

²University of Seville, Seville, Spain

³Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO-Ecuador), Quito, Ecuador

⁴University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA

Student Spotlights

New Publications

ANABELA CIBELES VILLACH VAQUER

RYD
REPÚBLICA Y DERECHO
Revista Jurídica

Los convenios internacionales que celebran las entidades subnacionales de Argentina y España. Caracterización a partir de un doble análisis

Anabela Cibeles Villach Vaquer

No dejes de leerlo en nuestra web
www.revistaryd.derecho.uncu.edu.ar

NUEVA PUBLICACIÓN

 **UNCUYO** |  **FACULTAD DE DERECHO**

Anabela Villach published the article “International Agreements Entered into by Subnational Entities of Argentina and Spain. Characterization from a Dual Analysis” at “Revista República y Derecho” the journal of the Law School of the National University of Cuyo, Argentina.

Read the article in this link: <https://revistaryd.derecho.uncu.edu.ar/index.php/revista/article/view/314>

The purpose of this paper is to delve into the intricate legal regulation of the external action of the Argentinian provinces and the Spanish autonomous communities. The proposed analysis is relevant as it uncovers the complexities of how sub-state entities are becoming increasingly prominent in the international scenario. However, this complexity often hinders the translation of their actions into effective regulation in International Law. This action is intensely studied in the field of international relations and one of the terms used to describe this phenomenon is paradiplomacy. From the conclusions, it will be noticed that, in spite of the differences in the regulations of both States, they have basic legislation that should be valued. In the absence of applicable norms in the field of Public International Law, recourse must be had to the provisions of each country’s domestic law

Upcoming events

Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean
& Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Organization

LATINA/O SUCCESS STORIES IN THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD



Alejandra Arze
Citibank
Director Latin American South,
Andean & Colombian Markets
Business Execution Head



Fernanda Duran
PegasusTSI
Chemical engineering in the
Areas of copper mineral
processing and specialty
chemicals

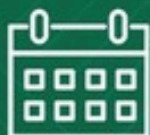


Carlos Silva
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Associate Director of
Controllershship Strategic
Initiatives



Lia Perez, MD
Moffitt Cancer Center
Hematologist and Blood &
Marrow Transplantation and
Cellular Immunotherapy
Program

The event will feature successful Latina/o professionals who are working in the Tampa Bay Area. Our distinguished guests from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile will share their experiences, stories of professional growth, personal learning, and dreams.



October 29, 2024
5 PM to 6:30 PM
College of Public Health (CPH 2016 & 2018)
USF Tampa Campus
Light refreshments will be served



Disability Accommodations: If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact 813-974-0982 at least five (5) working days prior to the event.



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

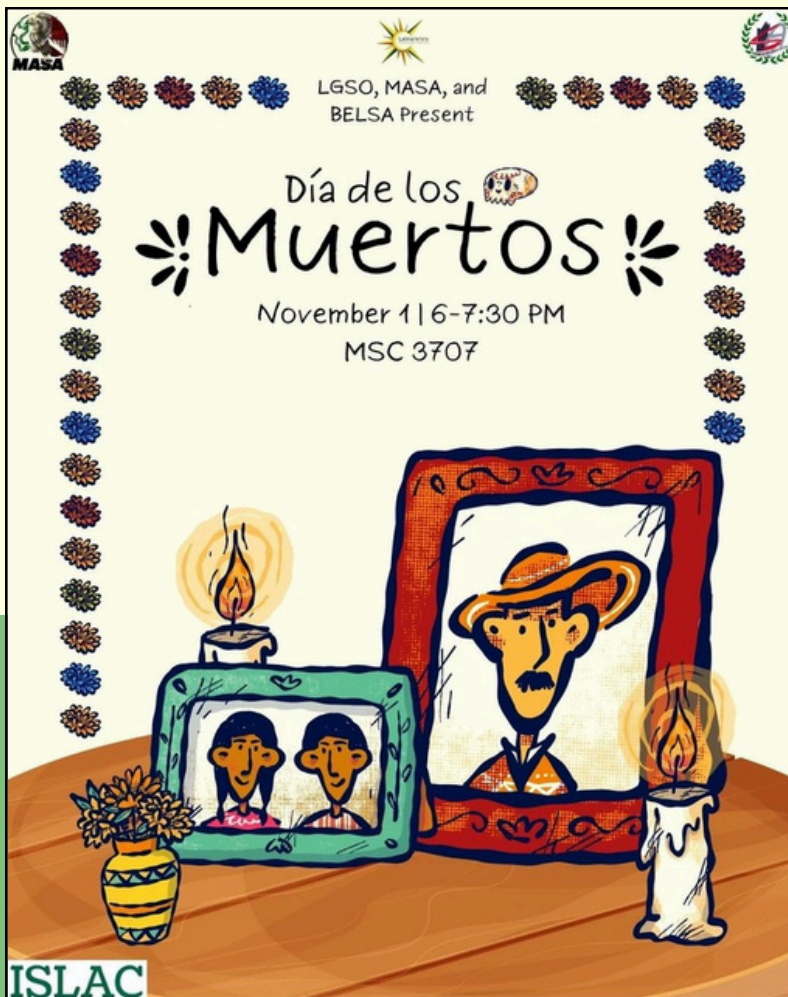
College of Arts & Sciences
Institute for the Study of Latin America
& the Caribbean

LAC News Takeaways

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

- **Argentina:** Protests were held at universities across Argentina in response to President Milei's veto of the budget law increasing funding for public universities. Public classes are being offered in public spaces.
- **Brazil:** The G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2024, in Rio de Janeiro, and will be attended by 19 member countries, plus the African Union and the European Union.
- **Cuba:** severe blackouts had been taking place in the last few week. People have taken the street protesting the lack of food and power. In addition, tropical storm Oscar made landfall, worsening the situation.
- **Mexico:** Claudia Sheinbaum, an environmental scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, took office on October 1st as Mexico's 66th president and its first female President in the country.
- **Venezuela:** Elections were held in Venezuela last July 28. At least 12 million Venezuelans went to the polls and exercised the right to vote, however the processing of those votes and the announcement of results by the National Electoral Council (CNE), controlled by Maduro, were flawed. Thus, the official announcement of the outcome that declared Maduro as the winner, does not reflect the will of the Venezuelan people. Since then, many people have been tortured and imprisoned. In this context, more Venezuelans are expected to leave the country.
- **Uruguay:** This October 27, this country is holding elections for President and Parliament and two referendum questions. The first addresses rising concerns about insecurity and asks whether a constitutional ban on nighttime police raids on homes should be lifted and the second proposes reverting the retirement age to 60 from 65, tying pensions to the minimum wage, and scrapping private pension fund managers.





Coming soon...

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 Anabela Villach's email listed below.

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

<https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/390750/>

ISLAC INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



ISLAC - INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AT USF



@islac_usf



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ISLAC)



ISLAC_USF



ANABELA VILLACH
 EMAIL: ACVILLACHVAQUER@USF.EDU

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
 4202 EAST FOWLER AVENUE, FAO 270
 TAMPA, FL
[HTTP://ISLAC.USF.EDU](http://islac.usf.edu)



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA