

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Where passion and excellence encounter knowledge

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News from the Director

Dear ISLAC family and friends,

USF 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month was full of events, awards and recognitions. ISLAC has been actively involved in organizing academic and community events, and, our students' and mission have been acknowledged in multiple occasions, making us proud.

ISLAC participated in the USF Hispanic Heritage Month Celebratory Luncheon, September 14, 2023, where I shared my experience as a Latina Faculty. During this luncheon, conversations among Latino/a/x Graduate Students and me sparked the creation of a new USF graduate student organization, named "Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Organization". I am so excited to announce that I am their Faculty Mentor. We are already working together and have partnered with the USF Latino Scholarship Program to organize a mentoring event that showcases two exceptional Latinas: Betilde Muñoz-Poggosian and Marynes Mateos, both Venezuelan-Americans and USF alumni. If you can, come to MSC this November 3rd (see flyer bellow).

This year, the Status of Latinos (SoL) Breakfast Award was held in USF - Saint Petersburg campus for the first time. USF President Rhea Law, USF Provost Prasant Mohapantra and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Magali Michael attended the ceremony. Barbara Herrera (ISLAC/MALACS) received a SoL Graduate Student Award, congratulations Barbara. I am honored to have also received a SoL award due to my involvement in ALAS. After two years of hard work, the Advancing Latino Access & Success Presidential Task Force (ALAS), submitted a report to USF with strategies and tactics to help USF improve Hispanic/Latinx student enrollment and enhance opportunities for educational and career success, to achieve the federal designation of Hispanic-Serving Institution.

I want to warmly welcome Dr. Isabela Cabral Felix de Sousa, from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who arrived at USF last month. She is doing research about international students and programs and presented preliminary findings in the Comparative and International Education Society Regional Conference, in Monterey, California. At the same venue, I presented a paper entitled "Examining ethnic and racial identities in the University: Latin Americans, Afro-descendants and Latinos in the US and Spain". This topic has been getting attention lately, thus together with Glenda Vaillant Cruz (USF student) and Dr Antonia Olmos Alcaraz (U of Granada, Spain), our worked got published in Education Sciences.

As announced, the Spring of 2024, in anticipation of the celebration of ISLAC 30th Anniversary, we are planning the first ISLAC Global Symposium. This event will highlight ISLAC Faculty and Students' research on Latin American, Caribbean and Latino issues. In this issue, we are launching the call for papers. I hope you send us your contribution (see call for papers below).

Several Latin American historical moments are remembered in September and October of 2023: 50 years of the military coup d'état that overthrew democracy in Chile, and 40 years of uninterrupted democracy in Argentina.

Let us know if you have news to share. Enjoy reading.

Beatriz Padilla



Hispanic Heritage Luncheon

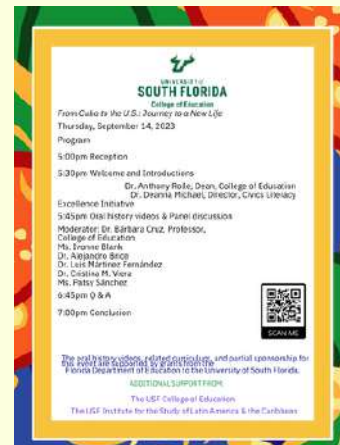


This Celebratory Luncheon marked the starting point of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Distinguished people from the Latino community shared their inspiring life stories. Also, organization leaders shared information regarding scholarships and involvement opportunities. This was a wonderful event filled with delicious food and great music. ISLAC affiliate students enjoyed attending and meeting new acquaintances who are also passionate about increasing Latin American & Caribbean culture, history and visibility among us.



From Cuba to the US: Journey to a New Life

This event was a rich opportunity for reflecting about Cuban immigration through video presentations and a panel composed of Cuban immigrants. The College of Education produced videos with the aim of keeping record of oral stories from Cuban immigrants and have them available as a resource for teachers as well as for USF faculty and students. The guest speakers shared their life experiences with the audience, followed by a Q&A session. It was a pleasure to partner with the College of Education with the support of **Dr. Barbara Cruz**.



SoL Annual Award Breakfast



SoL Committee with President Rhea Law



Recognition of ALAS Task Force



SoL Recipient Barbara Herrera

ISLAC affiliates attended the USF Status of Latinos (SoL) Breakfast. The purpose of this event is to recognize USF students, faculty, staff and community leaders who are contributing to the Latinx community through academic research and/or community service. At the breakfast, second year MALAC's student and ISLAC affiliate, **Barbara Herrera** received a SoL award. When asked about receiving the award, Barbara shared that "Receiving a SoL award felt empowering and motivational. It encourages me to continue living up to the expectations of the award. Supporting my community, seeking out opportunities to uplift Latinx peoples, and working towards my future as a Caribbeanist, have become my top priorities after this recognition."

Dr. Padilla also had the opportunity of presenting an award to **Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian** who is a member of the ISLAC Community Advisory Council. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian (Venezuelan-American) is the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity at the Organization of American States (OAS), where she is responsible for directing the work of the OAS in matters of social inclusion and access to human rights with special consideration to populations in vulnerable situations. She is coming to USF this week for a mentoring session.

The Latinization of Indigenous Students: Erasing Identity and Restricting Opportunity at School



On September 27th, **Dr. Rebecca Campbell-Montalvo**, a USF Anthropology Ph.D. graduate, returned to the university to discuss her research conducted in rural Florida. Her latest book delves into the perception of indigenous youth by various schools. She argues that schools often manipulate the languages and racial identities of Indigenous Latinx students and families, erasing their indigeneity. Campbell-Montalvo also focused on the Migrant Education Program, which she believes can promote equitable access by encouraging teaching methods that position educators as either cultural insiders or learners. Following the book presentation, students and faculty engaged in a Q&A session. We are grateful that Dr. Rebecca Campbell-Montalvo returned to USF to share this valuable research with us!



COME & JOIN US FOR THE BOOK LAUNCH OF

“The Latinization of Indigenous Students: Erasing Identity and Restricting Opportunity at School”

By Dr. Rebecca Campbell-Montalvo
University of Connecticut

September 27th, 2023 from 4:00-5:30
TECO Hall, College of Education



Based upon research in rural central Florida, this book examines how schools receive and process demographic information, including how those perceptions may erase indigeneity and impact resource access. The author argues that languages and racial identities of Indigenous Latinx students and families may be re-formed by schools, erasing indigeneity.

Sponsored by:







"When the World Turned Upside Down: Politics, Culture, and the Unimaginable Events of 2019-2022"

Book Presentation by Dr. Luis Martínez-Fernández.

Dr. Luis Martínez-Fernández is a Pegasus Professor of History at the University of Central Florida (UCF). He is an educator and columnist, specializing in Cuban and Caribbean history and culture, education, and global contemporary history and also a syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate.

Dr. Martínez-Fernández came to USF to speak about his new book, a collection of 66 essays and opinion columns written at the intersection of history, chronicling, and opinion journalism, each offering a dialogue between the past and present.

The event began with introductions by Dr. Beatriz Padilla, the Director of The Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) and comments by **Dr. Alejandro Marquez**, Assistant Professor of Sociology.

In his presentation, Dr. Martínez-Fernández shared how his personal life experiences and beliefs influenced his writing process. He also discussed how pivotal recent historical events found expression in the book. Regarding Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Martínez-Fernández addressed the political and social significance of cases such as Puerto Rico, Barbados, Cuba, and Haiti.

The poster features the University of South Florida logo at the top left. The title "When the World Turned Upside Down" is prominently displayed in a green box, with "Presentation and Q&A" below it. A circular portrait of Dr. Martínez-Fernández is on the right. The event details are: "October 4th, 2023, 5:00- 6:30 PM, TECO Hall, College of Education". A description of the book and author's background is provided. The book cover is shown on the right. Sponsors include ISLAC and the University of South Florida College of Education.



Mi Gente Mi Pueblo-Movida 2023

4th Annual Event



On Saturday, October 7th, the organization held their annual event, Movida, which hosts a variety of activities, including a panel discussion with community members. One of our MALAC/ISLAC student, **Julissa Ramirez Perez** participated, sharing her experience and knowledge on Indigenous groups.

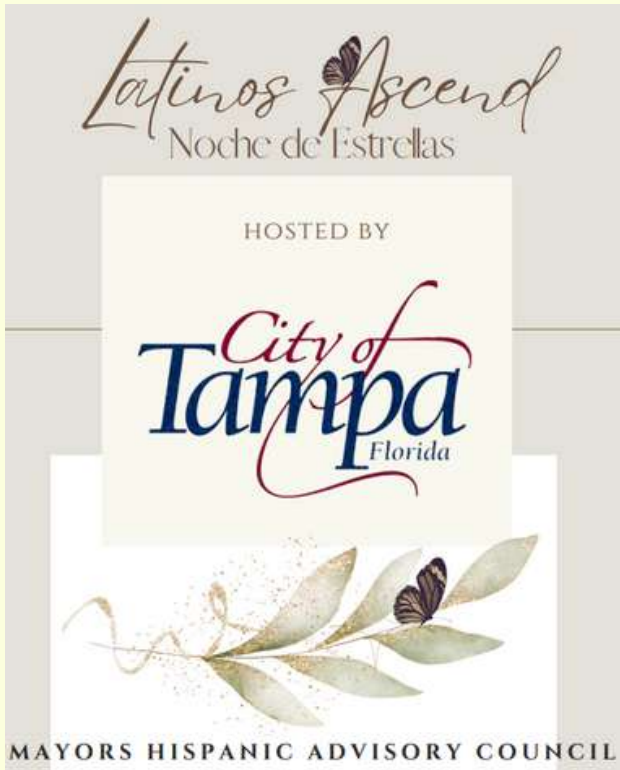
Mi Gente Mi Pueblo is a local organization in the Tampa Bay area that seeks to “connect with leaders who engage or identify as Latinos, Latinas, Hispanics, Spanish Speakers, and are in the pursuit of unity and equity”. The organization focuses on:

- Developing & Amplifying the Latinx Narrative: Stories and Data,
- Reimagining Healing Spaces: Belonging, and Building Sustainability.
- Strategy for Advocacy: Social Change.



Julissa was able to share about her struggles during her first years in the United States while navigating the education system as a Costa Rican immigrant who primarily spoke Spanish. As an educator of kindergarten students, Julissa shares her Latino heritage through teaching the children Spanish and songs which she was taught as a child. In Costa Rica, Julissa views herself as just a “Tica”, but in the United States, she embraces her Latin American identity.

Latinos Ascend



The Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council hosted its inaugural gala, "Latinos Ascend: Noche de Estrellas" which is a black-tie event to benefit graduate students through the Dr. Anh-Kay Pizano USF Latino Scholarship Fund. The event was held at the Tampa Museum of Art, October 20, 2023.

The Gala aimed at raising funds for scholarships to support the dream of Latino graduate students who attend the University of South Florida.

Several USF students attended the Gala, along with Flor Martinez (USF Latino Scholarship Program), Tracy Muir (Office of Parents Philanthropy and Diversity Initiatives), USF Health, and ISLAC.



Student Spotlight

Yasmeen Armoush Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with the Town' n Country Boys & Girls Club

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, **Yasmeen Armoush**, second year master's student was invited to share her pride in her Colombian heritage and culture with the young members of Town'n Country Boys & Girls Club. During this event, the youth were not only able to ask Yasmeen about her time as the Queen of Carnaval for Tampa-Baranquilla 2022, but were able to participate in a dance lesson. Yasmeen encouraged the youth to continue learning about their own heritage and to embrace their unique identities. Ivan Arizaga, Director of the Town'n Country Club shared a brief message: "I was very excited for Yasmeen to attend our program! She was great at encouraging our youth to be proud of where they come from and made learning about Hispanic Heritage month very engaging!"

Thank you Yasmeen!



ISLAC and Student Spotlight

Barbara De Paula defended her Master's Thesis

ISLAC is excited to congratulate **Barbara De Paula** as she defended her Master's Thesis titled "Liminal Legality, Social Exclusion, and the Island Community: The Uncertain Futures of Brazilian Immigrant Youth in Martha's Vineyard". Barbara became interested in this research topic, as it relates to her own migration experiences and journey through education. Barbara De Paula will be graduating this coming December with a MA in Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies. She will continue to work for Martha's Vineyard Adult Learning Program (MVALP), serving out-of-school youth. We are proud of what Barbara has accomplished during her time at USF and look forward to seeing where the future takes her. We know she will shine.



ISLAC is recognized in HHM

ISLAC was one of the organizations which was recognized at the University of South Florida vs. Florida Atlantic University football game on October 14th at Raymond James Stadium. We are excited to see the recognition of ISLAC and other Latino organizations at sporting events during Hispanic Heritage Month.

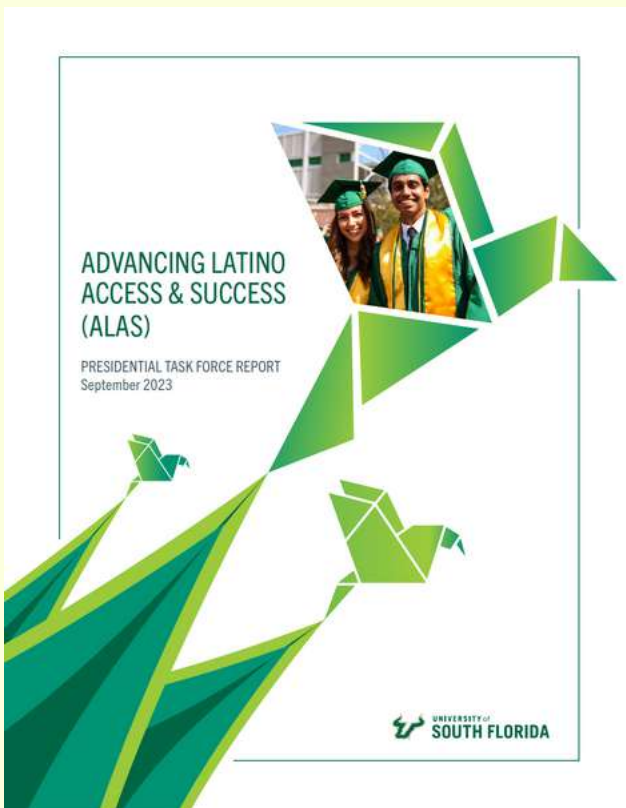


Student and Faculty Spotlights

ISLAC Participates in “Salud y Ritmo”



First year graduate student in MALAC’s and ISLAC affiliate, Anabela Villach attended USF College of Nursing’s event “Salud y Ritmo”. There, Anabela was able to talk with nursing students about ISLAC and the many opportunities for learning and engagement that our institute provides. Thank you for representing us well, Anabela!



ALAS Task Force

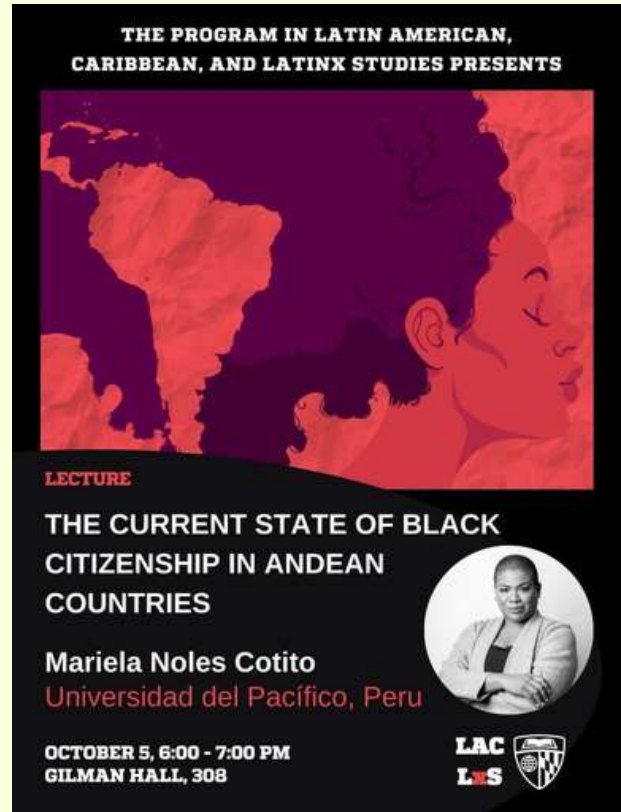
Dr. Beatriz Padilla has been involved in the ALAS Task Force (Advancing Latino Access and Success) for two years.

In September, ALAS presented a report to USF President Rhea Law. Dr Law was impressed with their work, and appreciated their suggestions and recommendations.

Later, the Advancing Latino Access and Success Task Force was recognized at the SoL Annual Award Breakfast.

Alumni Spotlight

Mariela Noles Cotito



Mariela Noles Cotito is a professor of Political Science and Discrimination and Public Policies in the Department of Social and Political Sciences of Universidad del Pacífico in Lima, Peru. She has an LLM from the University of Pennsylvania, a MA in Latin American, Caribbean and Latinos Studies, and a MA in Political Science with a concentration in Ethnicity in Andean Countries from the University of South Florida. She recently presented at the University of John Hopkins about “The Current State of Black Citizenship in Andean Countries”. Noles Cotito discussed how countries started to tear away from colorblindness in the 1980s and towards improved acknowledgement and protection of people of African descent.

Organization Spotlight

Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Organization (LGSO)

New to USF, the Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Organization aims to foster a USF-wide interdisciplinary space for underrepresented graduate students to have access to faculty mentorship, peer support, and professional development, while participating in local and international community outreach efforts.

If anyone is interested in joining LGSO, please contact Tailyn Osorio at osorio10@usf.edu



Carlos Cuadra, Tailyn Osorio, Anabela Villach, Julia Lopes de Paulo and Barbara Herrera are some of the members of the organization. ISLAC, represented in the picture by Dr. Beatriz Padilla, supports and sponsors this organization.

Alumni and Faculty Spotlight

“Multicultural Diversity in the Spanish Public University: An Ethnographic Case Study of Latin American, Latino, and Afro-Latin American Students”

by Beatriz Padilla, Glenda Vaillant Cruz, and Antonia Olmos Alcaraz

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Open Access Article

Multicultural Diversity in the Spanish Public University: An Ethnographic Case Study of Latin American, Latino, and Afro-Latin American Students

by Antonia Olmos Alcaraz^{1*}, Glenda Vaillant Cruz^{1,2} and Beatriz Padilla^{3,4}

¹ Department of Social Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, University of Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain
² Department of Anthropology, Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33612, USA
³ Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33612, USA
⁴ ISCTE—Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (CIES-IUL), 1649-026 Lisboa, Portugal
* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

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(This article belongs to the Special Issue Multiculturalism in Higher Education: Current Trends, Challenges, and Practices)

This paper just got published in Education Sciences (Q1) by USF student Glenda Vaillant Cruz (who spent a year in Spain as a Fulbright Scholar) and was hosted by Dr. Antonia Olmos Alcaraz, a professor at the University of Granada, and Dr. Beatriz Padilla. Dr. Padilla and Dr. Olmos Alcaraz have known each other for close to 15 years. In celebration of this project, Dr. Padilla wanted to emphasize the importance of teamwork and collaboration in academia for all students and faculty.



Upcoming Events

Alianza Latina Faculty & Staff Association (ALFSA)
GENERAL BODY MEETING

12 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

▶ <https://bit.ly/usfalianza1123>

This meeting is open to all USF Latinx/a/o, Latin American, or Hispanic identified faculty & staff and allies interested in supporting and being champions for this community.

 UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA
Alianza Latina Faculty and Staff Association


For membership inquiries, contact Laura Ferraz at alianza-latina@usf.edu.

Upcoming Events

CIRCULATING CULTURE

TRANSNATIONAL CUBAN NETWORKS OF EXCHANGE

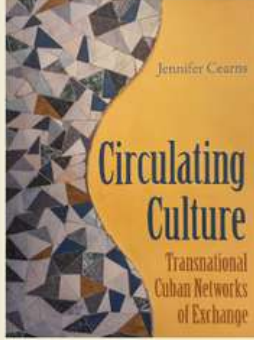
CIRCULATING CULTURE
Transnational Cuban Networks of Exchange







Dr. Jennifer Cearns
ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Anthropology
University College London

**TECO Hall,
College of Education
November 2nd, 2023
5:00 - 6:30 PM**

Tracing the flows of people, material items, and digital content between Havana and Miami, as well as between Cuba and Panama, Guyana, and Mexico, *Circulating Culture* explores how and why these circuits are a part of everyday life for millions of Cubans who negotiate extraordinary circumstances daily. Drawing on extensive ethnographic research in these locations, Jennifer Cearns highlights what Cuban culture and identity mean in a transnational setting. Ultimately, by focusing on everyday objects and the strategies used to move them across borders, this book reveals how new cultural forms can develop from the cracks in societies often seen as "broken."



UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

Organized by:  ISLAC
Sponsored by:  Department of Anthropology
 Department of Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
 UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Education

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

There will be a celebration on November 1st from 9:00-11:30 am, in the Michael Kuperman Memorial Poetry Library, CPR 301. Professors Natalie Scenters-Zapico and José Ángel Maldonado will put together an altar for Día de los Muertos with photos of dead poets, symbolic offerings to them, and mementos. All are invited to come and learn about the library's resources, goals, and hear some *calaveritas* (a Mexican poetic form for Day of the Dead).

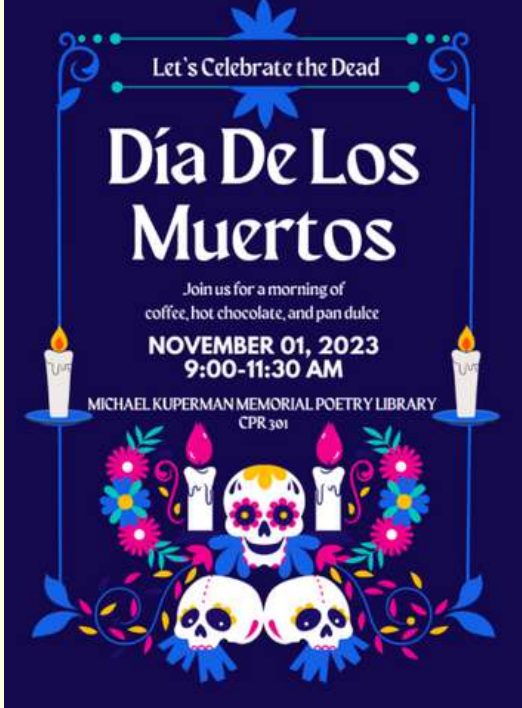
Let's Celebrate the Dead

Día De Los Muertos

Join us for a morning of coffee, hot chocolate, and pan dulce

**NOVEMBER 01, 2023
9:00-11:30 AM**

MICHAEL KUPERMAN MEMORIAL POETRY LIBRARY
CPR 301



Upcoming Events

EMPOWERMENT HOUR

A conversation with **Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian**



**Marshall Student Center
Room 3709**

November 3rd, 2023

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Light lunch will be served

Conversation moderated
by

**Marynes Mateos
(HPWA)**

Dr. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian (Venezuelan-American) is Director of the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity at the Organization of American States (OAS).

Her experience will inspire the audience to pursue their goals and contribute to society.



Sponsored by:



Latina/e/x/o
Graduate
Student
Organization

ISLAC is partnering with the USF Latino Scholarship Program and the bright new Latina/e/x/o Graduate Student Organization to host this mentoring event with students.

Our special guest is **Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian** (Venezuelan-American), who graduated from USF with a MA in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Political Sciences from Florida International University.

Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian is Director of the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity at the Organization of American States (OAS), where she is responsible for directing the work of the OAS in matters of social inclusion and access to human rights with special consideration to populations in vulnerable situations.

She has edited, published and co-authored several articles and volumes on issues of Latin American reality. her most recent contributions include “The Summit is a Great Chance for Better Cooperation on Migration” (2022) and “One Year Later: Slow Progress on a Key Migration Initiative” (2023), published by Americas Quarterly, and a book chapter “How to achieve more representation of indigenous and Afro-descendant people in Latin America and the Caribbean” (UNAM 2022).

She is a founding member and coordinator of the Network of Latin American Female Political Scientists #NoSinMujeres, which seeks to promote, make visible and empower the work of women dedicated to Latin American Political Science.

Marynes Mateos, from Hispanic Professional Women Association will moderate the session.

Call for Papers

First ISLAC Global Symposium USF April 11th & 12th, 2024

The field of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) studies has witnessed significant growth since the 1960s, not only within the US but also on a global scale. This expansion has been spurred by the forces of globalization, encompassing transnational migrations, international trade, and global partnerships. Consequently, LAC studies have evolved to encompass new perspectives, including the experiences of Latino populations in the US and around the world.

As ISLAC prepares to commemorate its 30th anniversary, we are thrilled to announce the inaugural ISLAC Global Symposium. This event aims to celebrate, exchange, and showcase USF's research, teaching, and practices in this dynamic field among academic peers, as well as with our local and global community.

ISLAC is now accepting submissions for the Call for Papers, inviting contributions that pertain to Latin America, the Caribbean, and/or Latino populations in the US or worldwide. We encourage faculty, students, and practitioners to propose papers in the following fields/topics (though not limited to):

- Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latino roles in World Affairs
- Democracies and regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Migrations and Minority Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Gender and Sexuality in Latin America, the Caribbean, and among Latino populations
- Higher Education Issues relating to Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latino populations
- Cultural Contributions from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos to the world (including arts, literature, architecture, music, etc.)
- Global Challenges faced by Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latino populations (including indigenous and Afrodescendant communities)

Proposals may be sent as a panel (up to 4 papers) or individual to padillab@usf.edu and acvillachvaquerusf.edu (make sure to include ISLAC Global Symposium in as the title of your email). Deadline: January 31, 2024.



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

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

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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)



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



ISLAC_USF



LAUREL LEE
EMAIL: LAURELL@USF.EDU
ANABELA VILLACH
EMAIL: ACVILLACHVAQUER@USF.EDU



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