

# MACLAS NEWS



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Please send updates on professional achievements, publications, and conference opportunities to [msinpa@gmail.com](mailto:msinpa@gmail.com) for inclusion in future issues.

And be sure to check [www.maclas.org](http://www.maclas.org) regularly for important updates on our activities! You can also visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41442771820/>

## Mark your calendars!

MACLAS 2017 ♦ **March 24-25**

University of Virginia,  
Charlottesville, VA

*Details in the October newsletter*



## Message from the President



**Greetings from MACLAS!** It's an honor & privilege to serve as your president during this exciting time – with our new online journal poised to begin publication, our social media presence

growing and expanding, our members garnering international prizes, and with a host of new faces and fresh ideas percolating throughout our 38 year-old professional organization.

As described in the story below, we're still working out the technical details for our new online journal, the *Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies* (MARLAS), which promises to offer a valuable resource for scholars and students, and a rigorous, open access, time-sensitive, peer-reviewed venue for junior and senior scholars to publish their work. A special thanks to longtime MACLAS members and former presidents **Ivani Vassoler** and **Jeff Pugh** for spearheading this exciting initiative.

A special thanks too to outgoing Outreach Coordinator **Kathleen Cunniffe Peña** for so effectively developing our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter – and along with that, a special welcome to our new Outreach Chair

**Franca Roibal Fernández**, a graduate student in Romance Studies at Boston University, who in addition to being highly skilled and hyper-competent, is, in Kathy's words, "a very proud and enthusiastic MACLAS member." Welcome aboard, Franca! And a warm welcome too to our new Executive Committee members, profiled in the February newsletter: **James F. Siekmeier** of West Virginia University; **Silvia M. Peart** of the US Naval Academy; and **Gerardo T. Cummings** of Wells College – and to our new Vice President, **Bridget M. Chesterton** of SUNY Buffalo State.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I'd also like to offer a word of sincere and abiding appreciation to outgoing President **Meghan McInnis-Domínguez** (2015-2016), who did such a sterling job leading MACLAS during her tenure – organizing our March 2016 conference at Temple University, shepherding the online journal team, and contributing in a thousand and one ways, large and small, to building on our successes of past years. Muchísimas gracias, Meghan!

I look forward to working with everyone in MACLAS as we move toward our 40th Anniversary in 2019. Meantime, hope to see you in Charlottesville next March!

– Michael J. Schroeder

## Update on the MACLAS Journal, "MARLAS"



**Good news!** Our freshly-minted online journal, the *Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies* (MARLAS), is in the final stages of developing its online platform, in collaboration with the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) and Ubiquity Press, and with its institutional home in the Latin American Research Commons. The Journal Editorial Team hopes to issue its first call for contributions soon, perhaps as early as August (*left: MARLAS Senior Editor Ivani Vassoler*).

After fruitful discussion, consensus was reached on the following description of the journal's focus and scope:



"The Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies is an interdisciplinary, peer reviewed, open access online journal focusing on the dissemination of scholarly work about Latin America and the Caribbean. The editors also welcome submissions focusing on relations among Latin American and Caribbean countries and with other states and regions of the world. MARLAS publishes research findings aimed at a multidisciplinary audience and invites submissions based on rigorous analysis from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. The journal publishes scholarly articles, essays, research notes, book reviews, review essays commissioned from experts in the field, and periodic special issues examining specific topics in Latin American studies. MARLAS accepts submissions in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Editorial Board asks prospective authors to examine carefully the guidelines for submissions. (Image at left: the MARLAS logo)

So keep an eye peeled on our October Newsletter for further updates on this exciting and long-brewing initiative! We are also pleased to announce the following Design Contest for the MARLAS website:

## Design Contest for MARLAS Website - \$200 Prize!

In the effort to develop a suitably compelling visual image for the homepage of our new online journal, MACLAS is pleased to announce a Design Contest for the website's "carousel image," which sits just below the navigation bar and title. The winning submission will most effectively capture the spirit and intent of the journal as described above, and incorporate in some fashion the MACLAS logo (the Tiwanaku image above, sans the acronym "maclas"). The image must be 730 pixels wide and between 245 and 450 pixels high. Questions? Please contact MACLAS President Michael Schroeder, at [msinpa@gmail.com](mailto:msinpa@gmail.com). Submissions should be sent to the same address. The deadline for submissions is September 15, 2016. The winner will be announced in the October newsletter.

## Highlights from MACLAS 2016

**The 2016 conference** was held on March 4-5 at the Fox School of Business at Temple University in Philadelphia. The conference theme, "Cycles & Encyclicals in Latin America," invited participants to consider the region's often tumultuous political-economic swings of recent years in this era of global neoliberalism, and the popularity and progressivism of Pope Francis I, the Latin American head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Panels ranged across the map, from "shifting frontiers of citizenship" and "the coloniality of being" to "flying saucers and the threat of extraterrestrial attack in Argentina." Friday's

session concluded with a provocative and well-received Whitaker address by María Roof on "Politics, Piketty & Poetry: Translation Matters," connecting Thomas Piketty's recent monumental study, *Capital in the 21st Century*, the neoliberal era, and their implications for the funding of translation and public spaces supporting literature and the arts.

Saturday's lunch was highlighted by the presentation of the 2016 award winners:

**ARTHUR P. WHITAKER PRIZE** for best book published by a member, 2014–2015: **Mark Wasserman**: *Pesos and Politics: Business, Elites,*



*Foreigners, and Government in Mexico, 1854-1940* (Stanford, 2015).

**HAROLD EUGENE DAVIS PRIZE** for best article published by a member, 2014–2015: **Patricia Rodríguez**: "Partisan Participation and Ethnic Autonomy: The Case of the Mapuche Organization Admapu, in Chile," co-authored with Christian Martínez Neira, *Journal of Latin American Studies* (online, Oct. 2015).

**WŁADYSŁAW MARYAN FROELICH RESEARCH AWARD:** **María Alejandra Aguilar Dornelles**, University of Albany, for "Chasing Freedom: Black Criminalization, Leadership, and Writing in

Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba" (\$500), and **Bridget Chesterton**, SUNY Buffalo State, for "The Hotel Guaraní: The Urbanization and Brazilianization of Paraguay during the Stroessner Years" (\$500).

**CHRISTINA TURNER GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS:** **Adriana Rincon Villegas** (University of Massachusetts—Boston), **Laura Hatry** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), **Teresa Drenten** (University of New Mexico), and **Christopher DeLorenzo** (Georgetown University).

Congratulations to all our 2016 prize winners for their exemplary work!

## Deadline for MACLAS 2016 student paper prizes: Oct. 1

Students who presented at the 2016 MACLAS conference at Temple University are encouraged to submit their papers for consideration for the following prizes. *Each prize offers a cash award of \$300 to the winner!* Papers should be sent as an attachment in a .doc, .docx or .pdf format. **Deadline: October 1, 2016.**

**JOHN D. MARTZ III PRIZE** for the best paper presented by a graduate student. Send to committee chair Louise Detwiler at [ladetwiler@salisbury.edu](mailto:ladetwiler@salisbury.edu).

**JUAN ESPADAS PRIZE** for the best paper presented by an undergraduate student. Send to committee chair James Siekmeier, at [James.Siekmeier@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:James.Siekmeier@mail.wvu.edu)

## Władysław Maryan Froelich Research Grant – Deadline Oct. 3

MACLAS invites applications for the Władysław Maryan Froelich Research Grant, which awards up to \$500 to faculty, professionals, and independent scholars to carry out research or creative projects on any facet of Latin American culture, politics or society. Typically, one grant is made each year.

Applicants should email their c.v., 2-page project proposal, and cover letter with the applicant's name and institutional affiliation (if any) in a PDF file by October 3, 2016 to Committee Chair Ivani Vassoler, at [ivani.vassoler@gmail.com](mailto:ivani.vassoler@gmail.com).

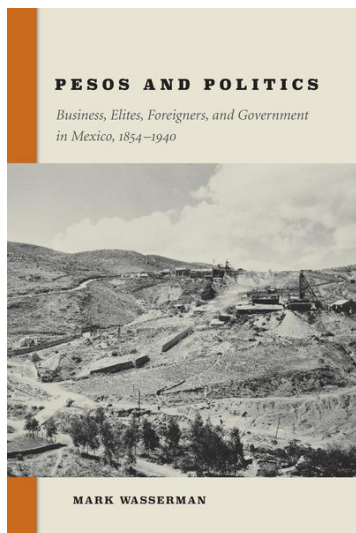


Above: Mark Wasserman receiving the Whitaker Prize from María Roof, MACLAS 2016.

## MACLAS Prize Winners

Below you will find descriptions of the work of two of our members, [Mark Wasserman](#) and [Patricia Rodríguez](#), who were recently awarded MACLAS prizes for their stellar research.

### Mark Wasserman's *Pesos & Politics*



Longtime MACLAS member and Professor of History at Rutgers University Mark Wasserman was awarded the 2016 Whitaker Prize for his book, *Pesos and Politics: Business, Elites, Foreigners, and Government in Mexico, 1854-1940* (Stanford University Press, 2015).

In the words of the Whitaker Prize Committee, (chaired by Maria Roof of Howard University, with members Susan M. Gauss of the University at Albany and Richard N. Gioioso of St. Joseph's University), "This study was selected, from among the excellent books submitted, for the quality of its scholarship and the new directions it establishes for future research. It overturns accepted historical analyses on the effects of the Porfiriato in Mexico through innovative interpretations that posit a previously underexposed system of interacting sectors.

"This is a complex study of the balance of forces determining the relationship between business and politics across six decades. Using research from an exceptional array of archival sources, Wasserman examines diverse groups, companies, and sectors and engages multiple threads in the field of Mexican business history. Most revealing in Wasserman's analysis is his

inclusion of local and regional interests in checking both foreign aspirations and federal actions. Díaz's power was never absolute, but nor was that of foreign owners.

"*Pesos and Politics* is a well-documented, detailed study of the actions of powerful business elites, foreign corporations and government actors in Mexico and a very worthy recipient of the 2016 Arthur P. Whitaker Prize."

Or, as Whitaker Prize Committee member Susan M. Gauss of the University of Albany wrote in her review of the book in the *Hispanic American Historical Review* (Feb. 2016), "Wasserman adds important depth to [the] new interpretations of [Porfirio] Díaz. . . . Wasserman's goal is to challenge assertions that unchecked foreign influence caused underdevelopment. . . . Historians of business, politics, and economy in Latin America and Mexico will surely find this book of interest, not least because it provokes new ways to discuss the origins and enduring features of dependency."

### Patricia Rodríguez on Mapuche Struggles in Chile

Former MACLAS Executive Committee member and Associate Professor of Politics at Ithaca College Patricia Rodríguez was unanimously awarded the



2016 Davis Prize for her article, "Partisan Participation and Ethnic Autonomy: The Case of the Mapuche Organization Admapu, in Chile", co-authored with Christian Martínez Neira and published online in the *Journal of Latin American Studies* in October 2015.

In the words of the Davis Prize Committee, (chaired by Luis Roniger of Wake Forest College, with members Jennifer Guzmán of SUNY-Geneseo and Gerardo Cummings of Wells College), "This peer-reviewed and meticulously researched article analyzes the case of the Mapuche organization Admapu in the framework of indigenous ethno-politics in Chile. Co-authored by a sociologist and a political scientist, it bridges between historiography and political science to build a rich analysis of Mapuche political participation and activism from the 1960s to today.

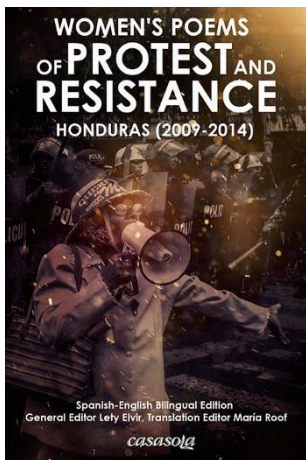
"The article significantly advances existing scholarship with new information and a nuanced discussion on the factors that underpinned Admapu successes and those that have posed challenges to ethno-political

initiatives, contributing to the present state of indigenous-state relations in Chile. Situating the work more broadly in Latin American Studies, Martínez Neira and Rodríguez's study helps uncover why, unlike indigenous movements in other South American countries, Mapuche organizations were 'unable to form an ethnic party or obtain political representation' as the nation returned to democratic rule.

"The Committee unanimously selected this contribution for its scrupulous scholarship, its coherent argument, and its dynamic interdisciplinary approach, which make it a very important contribution to the scholarship on the ethno-development of the Mapuche movement in Chile."

Congratulations Professors Wasserman and Rodríguez!

## Maria Roof's *Women's Poems of Protest & Resistance: Honduras (2009-2014)* Poised to Win International Latino Book Awards



Longtime MACLAS member and current Secretary **María Roof's** edited volume of Honduran women's poetry has been selected as a finalist in two categories for the prestigious 18<sup>th</sup> Annual International Latino Book Awards.

Published in a handsome Spanish-

English bilingual edition by Casasola Editores (Washington D.C. and Tegucigalpa), thanks in part to a generous subvention by MACLAS, the collection features 131 poems by 53 Honduran women, all focusing on struggles for dignity and rights amidst the tumultuous and

brutal aftermath of the military coup of June 2009. In the editors' words, this "poetic sampling" represents "just a drop in the ocean" of the artistic and literary outpouring of women's protest and resistance that erupted in the wake of the 2009 coup.

Based on a collection of women's poetry edited by Honduran poet and essayist Lety Elvir and published by Siguanaba (Tegucigalpa) in 2013 under the title *Honduras: Golpe y pluma: Antología de poesía resistente escrita por mujeres (2009-2013)*, this bilingual edition features seven new poets (less one poet from the original collection who asked to be removed). The English translations were produced a team of 20 volunteer translators working under the direction of Translation Editor María Roof.

The book is a finalist in two categories: "Best Poetry Book – Multi-Author" and "Best Cover Design" and is slated to win either first place, second place, or honorable mention at the September 8 Awards Ceremony in Los Angeles at the Dominguez Ballroom at California State University Dominguez Hills. In the words of a press release issued by the contest's organizers, "the Awards are produced by Latino Literacy Now, an organization co-founded by Edward James Olmos and Kirk Whisler, and co-presented by Las Comadres de las Americas and Reforma, the National

Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos."

"Bravo to all of us!" wrote María Roof in an email announcing the news. And indeed, the book stands as testament not only to Honduran women's continuing struggles for dignity and rights in the face of brutal political and military realities, but also to politically committed transnational scholarly collaboration.

Congratulations to María, Lety, the poets, and the entire translation team!

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## Other News & Announcements

- **Seeking to Compile an Annotated List of Scholarly Productions by MACLAS Members**

With an eye toward shamelessly trumpeting the scholarly successes of MACLAS members and spotlighting the intellectual energy and vibrancy that characterize our organization, we are asking you, esteemed fellow MACLAS members, to let us know about any books, peer-reviewed journal articles, or other scholarly productions (films, museum exhibitions, performances, etc.) that you have published or produced in the past five years (2011-2016). Full citations and brief descriptions (less than 100 words) would be appreciated. But be forewarned: your scholarly production might well be highlighted on our Facebook page and in future newsletters! Please send your citation(s) and description(s) to [msinpa@gmail.com](mailto:msinpa@gmail.com).

- **Opportunities: C.L.R. James Research Fellowship**

The African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) has announced its 2017 **C.L.R. James Research Fellowship** to support research towards the completion of a dissertation or publication of a book. Named after Afro-Trinidadian theorist C.L.R. James, the research fellowships are intended to promote research in black intellectual history by graduate students and untenured college and university faculty and others who are within six years of the Ph.D. Two fellowships of \$1,000 will be awarded annually to help cover the costs of domestic or international travel necessary to conduct research. The award will be announced formally at the AAIHS Conference. Membership in AAIHS is required. All application materials should be received by January 15, 2017. Applicants are asked to send the following documents in a single PDF document: short c.v. (no more than 3 pages), 3-5 page project proposal, budget, and arrange to have one letter of recommendation sent to the fellowship committee chair: Dr. Ashley D. Farmer ([aaihs10@gmail.com](mailto:aaihs10@gmail.com)). Applicants will be notified by February 15, 2017. Funds must be used by December 30, 2017. Recipients will be required to submit a detailed report to the conference chair. Graduate student applicants



must have passed their qualifying exams. This announcement is reproduced with the kind permission of the African American Intellectual History Society.

- **Soliciting Help of Artists & Writers with Research on Latinos in Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania has a large and growing Latino population whose history has largely gone unrecorded. We are working on an exhibit titled "Hidden Latino History of Central Pennsylvania," slated to begin in January 2017 at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society in Lancaster PA. It will also appear at Lebanon Valley College in summer 2017. We are looking for artists and writers whose work documents or reflects on the Latino experience in Eastern or Central Pennsylvania.

We define artists broadly: painters, photographers, visual artists, poets, writers, musicians, and others. Please contact Prof. of History John Hinshaw ([hinshaw@lvc.edu](mailto:hinshaw@lvc.edu)) or Prof. of Spanish Ivette Guzmán-Zavala ([guzman@lvc.edu](mailto:guzman@lvc.edu)) at Lebanon Valley College for details on submission guidelines. *(Photo: Puerto Rican tomato pickers at the Hess farm, Lancaster County, ca. 1950s, reproduced thanks to the kind courtesy of the Mennonite Historical Society)*



**The Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies** is a professional organization comprised of scholars, researchers, teachers, students, and interested professionals in all disciplines and pursuits from the region comprised of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. MACLAS has as its objectives promoting and developing interest in Latin American studies and affairs. The organization was founded in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1979. The MACLAS newsletter is published three times a year.

### MACLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2017

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: **Michael J. Schroeder**, Lebanon Valley College  
 VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT: **Bridget M. Chesterton**, SUNY Buffalo State  
 TREASURER: **Brian Turner**, Randolph-Macon College  
 SECRETARY: **María Roof**, Howard University

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Meghan McInnis-Domínguez**, University of Delaware

#### MEMBERS

**Louise Detwiler** (2017), Salisbury University  
**Luis Roniger** (2018), Wake Forest University  
**Mirna Trauger** (2018), Muhlenberg College  
**Gerardo T. Cummings** (2019), Wells College  
**Silvia M. Peart** (2019), United States Naval Academy  
**James F. Siekmeier** (2019), West Virginia University