

# CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

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## OVERVIEW

Established in 1968, the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) brings together faculty and students across the University in interdisciplinary and interdivisional research, teaching, scholarly events, and public engagement related to this vital region of the world.

The Center for Latin American Studies:

- works closely with faculty to support their teaching and research, actively sponsors programs for visiting academics, and maintains a quarterly list of courses related to Latin America and the Caribbean (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/courses/>)
- administers academic programs, including BA major and minor programs (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/>) and a graduate certificate (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/academics/graduate-certificate/>) for students across MA and PhD programs
- funds study/research and provides teaching opportunities (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/resources/for-students/>) for graduate students across divisions and programs
- promotes interdisciplinary research, education, discussion, and debate around myriad topics relevant to Latin America, through scholarly and public engagement programs (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/activities-programs/>).

A full description of CLAS programming is available at the Center's website (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/>).

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE/OPTION IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

The University of Chicago is a premier institution for research, teaching, and graduate study in the histories, cultures, politics, economies, and languages of Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 50 faculty members from throughout the graduate divisions and professional schools of the University focus their teaching and/or research on Latin America and the Caribbean, offering a wide range of disciplinary and regional coverage.

### Eligibility and Requirements

**All students who are enrolled full time in a graduate degree program at the University of Chicago are eligible to apply for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) certificate (or option, for students enrolled in MAPH).** Students should submit a certificate/option application no sooner than two quarters prior to, and no later than the end of the first week of, the intended quarter of graduation. This certificate/option provides proof of area studies specialization and will be noted on the transcript; all courses may be double counted toward both degree requirements and the LACS certificate/option. All coursework completed for the certificate/option must be taken for a quality grade.

A certificate/option will be granted when an applicant has fulfilled all course requirements in their degree program and the following certificate requirements, explained in more detail on the CLAS website (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/grad-certificate/>):

- 1 foundational course in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- 3 additional courses in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Demonstrated language proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or a relevant indigenous language
- A major research project (typically an MA thesis or doctoral dissertation) on a theme or topic related to Latin America and/or the Caribbean
- Presentation of academic work at the Latin American History Workshop or Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean or another CLAS-approved event (CLAS staff are available to assist with arrangements)
- In addition, *doctoral students* are required to demonstrate at least one year of active participation in the Latin American History Workshop or the Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Interested students are strongly encouraged to meet with the LACS program adviser as soon as they decide to pursue the certificate/option so that CLAS can provide guidance on requirements and monitor progress toward the certificate/option. *Each MA applicant* will meet with the program adviser to discuss their plan for completion of certificate/option requirements, cultivate their research interests, and identify a faculty adviser for the master's thesis. At any point before, during, or after the completion of certificate/option requirements, all students are welcome to meet with the CLAS faculty director or the program adviser to discuss their goals and the relevance of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies certificate/option to their research.

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## CLAS STAFF

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phone: 773.702.8420

## CLAS WEBSITE

[HTTP://CLAS.UCHICAGO.EDU/](http://CLAS.UCHICAGO.EDU/)

## AFFILIATED FACULTY

[HTTPS://CLAS.UCHICAGO.EDU/ABOUT/PEOPLE/AFFILIATED-FACULTY](https://CLAS.UCHICAGO.EDU/ABOUT/PEOPLE/AFFILIATED-FACULTY) ([HTTPS://CLAS.UCHICAGO.EDU/ABOUT/PEOPLE/AFFILIATED-FACULTY/](https://CLAS.UCHICAGO.EDU/ABOUT/PEOPLE/AFFILIATED-FACULTY/))

- Michael Albertus (<https://political-science.uchicago.edu/directory/michael-albertus/>), Department of Political Science  
Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela  
Political conditions under which governments implement egalitarian reforms; political regime transitions and stability; politics under dictatorship; clientelism; civil conflict
- Fernando Alvarez (<https://economics.uchicago.edu/directory/Fernando-Alvarez/>), Department of Economics  
Argentina  
Dynamic general equilibrium models applied to asset pricing, search and insurance
- Jessica Swanston Baker (<https://music.uchicago.edu/people/jessica-swanston-baker/>), Department of Music  
Caribbean  
Contemporary popular music of and in the Circum-Caribbean; tempo and aesthetics; coloniality, decolonization; race/gender and respectability
- Maria Angélica Bautista (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/maria-bautista/>), Harris School of Public Policy  
Chile  
Political, economic, and social consequences of state-led repression
- N. Tulio Bermúdez (<https://linguistics.uchicago.edu/natalia-bermudez/>), Department of Linguistics  
Latin America, Caribbean  
Documentation and description of grammatical, historical, and typological aspects of indigenous languages of Latin America and the Caribbean, esp. Naso (Chibchan, Panama); verbal art (linguistic forms that are interpreted as salient, e.g., ideophones, puns, poetic couplets); multilingual expressions and experiences of Latinx and queer identities
- Christopher Blattman ([http://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/faculty/christopher\\_blattman/](http://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/faculty/christopher_blattman/)), Harris School of Public Policy  
Colombia, Africa  
Poverty, political engagement, the causes and consequences of violence, and policy in developing countries
- Dain Borges (<http://history.uchicago.edu/directory/dain-borges/>), Department of History  
Brazil, Caribbean  
Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American culture and ideas; intellectual history; history of the family
- Neil Brenner (<https://sociology.uchicago.edu/directory/neil-brenner/>), Department of Sociology  
Latin America (collaborations with colleagues in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia)  
Cities and urbanization within the social sciences; environmental humanities; design disciplines and environmental studies; theoretical, conceptual, and methodological dimensions of urban questions; challenges of reinventing our approach to urbanization in relation to the crises, contradictions, and struggles of our time
- Larissa Brewer-García (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/larissa-brewer-garcia/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
Caribbean, Andes  
Colonial Latin American studies; cultural productions of the Caribbean and Andes and the African diaspora in the Iberian empire; relationship between literature and law; genealogies of race and racism; humanism and Catholicism in the early modern Atlantic; translation studies
- Claudia Brittenham (<https://arthistory.uchicago.edu/faculty/profiles/brittenham/>), Department of Art History  
Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras  
Art and identity in ancient Mesoamerica; intercultural interaction; materiality of art; the politics of style

Chad Broughton (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/chad-broughton/>), Social Sciences Collegiate Division  
Mexico, US  
Labor studies and trade and immigration policy; crime, justice and policing, and desistance from crime, with a particular interest in Chicago

Leonardo Bursztyn (<https://economics.uchicago.edu/directory/Leonardo-Bursztyn/>), Department of Economics  
Brazil  
Role of social pressure and social norms in shaping important economic decisions; educational, labor market, financial, consumption, and political decisions in developing and developed countries

Shannon Dawdy (<https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/directory/Shannon-Lee-Dawdy/>), Department of Anthropology  
Cuba, Mexico  
How landscapes and material objects mediate human relationships and how shared cultural experiences affect our perceptions of time (past, present, future); death, disaster, sensuality, and histories of colonialism and capitalism; pirates

Frederick De Armas (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/frederick-de-armas/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
Spain, Cuba  
Literature of the Spanish Golden Age (Cervantes, Calderón, Claramonte, Lope de Vega), from a comparative perspective; has published two novels about Cuba, set before Castro and in 1960

Sergio Delgado Moya (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/sergio-delgado-moya/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
Latin America, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies  
Latin American and Latinx literatures and cultures during 20th and 21st centuries, art history of the Americas, consumer culture, media studies, migration, border studies, the literature and art of Greater Mexico, Brazilian literature and art, Chilean contemporary art and literature, experimental poetry, critical theory, conceptual art in Latin America, violence and sensationalism.

Oeindrila Dube (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/oeindrila-dube/>), Harris School of Public Policy  
Latin America, Africa  
Political economy of development; links between poverty and conflict; how institutions affect health service delivery and the spread of epidemics; how economic shocks affect violent conflict; whether the gender identity of leaders determines their tendency to engage in war

Brodwyn Fischer (<http://history.uchicago.edu/directory/brodwyn-fischer/>), Department of History  
Brazil, Latin America  
Inequality and its persistence; informality, cities, citizenship, law, migration, race, slavery

René D. Flores (<https://sociology.uchicago.edu/directory/ren%C3%A9-d-flores/>), Department of Sociology  
US, Latin America  
International migration, race and ethnicity, social stratification; social consequences of subnational restrictionist immigration policies in the US; determinants of perceived immigrant illegality; effect of non-ethnic factors on ethnoracial identity in Latin America; adaptation of Latino and Asian immigrants in the US using social media data

Chiara Galli (<https://humdev.uchicago.edu/directory/chiara-galli-1/>), Department of Comparative Human Development  
US, Mexico  
International migration, refugee studies, childhood, the life-course, law and policy

Rachel Galvin (<http://english.uchicago.edu/rachel-galvin/>), Department of English  
US, Latin America  
Twentieth and twenty-first-century poetry and poetics in English, Spanish, and French; comparative modernisms; hemispheric studies; US Latinx literature; wartime literature; multilingual poetics; the Oulipo; translation theory and practice

Angela S. García (<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/directory/angela-s-garcia/>), Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, And Practice  
US, Spain  
International migration; law and society; race and ethnicity; urban sociology; social policy; consequences of socio-legal inclusion and exclusion for undocumented immigrants across the United States, Mexico, and Spain

Edgar Garcia (<https://english.uchicago.edu/edgar-garcia/>), Department of English  
The Americas

Hemispheric literatures and cultures of the Americas, principally of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; indigenous, Latinx, and Chicana studies; American poetics; environmental criticism; theory of law; intersection of poetry and anthropology

Susan Gzesh (<http://humanrights.uchicago.edu/people/susan-gzesh/>), Social Sciences Collegiate Division

Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador

Inter-relationship between human rights and migration policy; the domestic application of international human rights norms; Mexico-US relations

James Heckman (<https://economics.uchicago.edu/directory/James-J-Heckman/>), Department of Economics

Chile, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, Brazil

Inequality; social mobility; discrimination; skill formation and regulation

Mary Hicks (<https://history.uchicago.edu/directory/mary-hicks/>), Department of History

Brazil, Black Atlantic

Slavery and Emancipation; the Atlantic world; early modern capitalism; colonialism, race, gender, and sexuality

Dwight N. Hopkins (<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/directory/dwight-n-hopkins/>), Divinity School

Cuba

Contemporary models of theology; various forms of liberation theologies (especially black and other third-world manifestations); multidisciplinary approaches to the study of religious thought, especially cultural, political, economic, and interpretive

Ryan Cecil Jobson ([http://anthropology.uchicago.edu/people/faculty\\_member/ryan\\_jobson/](http://anthropology.uchicago.edu/people/faculty_member/ryan_jobson/)), Department of Anthropology

Caribbean

Energy and extractive resource development; technology and infrastructure; states and sovereignty; histories of racial capitalism in the colonial and postcolonial Americas; relationship between modern energy regimes (e.g., plantation slavery, carbon-based fuels) and the modern political ideal of sovereignty

Rashauna Johnson (<https://history.uchicago.edu/directory/rashauna-johnson/>), Department of History

Atlantic World

Atlantic slavery and emancipation; nineteenth-century African diaspora; US South; urban and regional history; race, gender, and sexuality

Robert Kendrick (<https://music.uchicago.edu/people/robert-l-kendrick/>), Department of Music

Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua

Latin American music; historical anthropology; visual arts

Alan L. Kolata (<https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/directory/Alan-L-Kolata/>), Department of Anthropology

Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala

Agroecological systems; human-environment interactions; the human dimension of global change; agricultural and rural development; archaeology and ethnohistory, particularly in the Andean region

Emilio Kourí (<http://history.uchicago.edu/directory/emilio-kour%C3%AD/>), Department of History

Mexico

Modern Mexico; agrarian studies; social and economic history of Latin America; the history of ideas; Cuba and the Spanish Caribbean; US Latino/a history

Benjamin Lessing (<https://political-science.uchicago.edu/directory/benjamin-lessing/>), Department of Political Science

Mexico, Colombia, Brazil

"Criminal conflict" (organized armed violence involving non-state actors who are not trying to topple the state); prison gangs' effect on state authority; how paramilitary groups use territorial control to influence electoral outcomes

Ana Maria Lima (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/ana-maria-lima/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Brazil

Portuguese language; language pedagogy; Brazilian culture

Victor Lima (<https://economics.uchicago.edu/directory/Victor-O-Lima/>), Department of Economics

Chile

Monetary economics; social effects; unemployment effects of labor regulation

Nené Lozada (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/nene-lozada/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Peru, Mexico

Spanish language; South American bio-archaeology; human osteology

John Lucy (<https://humdev.uchicago.edu/directory/john-lucy/>), Department of Comparative Human Development  
Mesoamerican Culture and Languages  
Linguistic anthropology, Psychological anthropology, Mesoamerican culture and language forms; Social science theory and method

Agnes Lugo-Ortiz (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/agnes-lugo-ortiz/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
Caribbean, Latin America  
Nineteenth-century Latin American literature; nineteenth- and twentieth-century Caribbean cultural history; relationships between cultural production and the formation of modern socio-political identities

Deirdre Lyons (<https://history.uchicago.edu/directory/deirdre-lyons/>), Department of History  
French Caribbean  
Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Caribbean history; French colonialism and empire; Atlantic worlds; history of slavery and emancipation in the Americas; post-abolition citizenship; cultural and social history; history of the family, gender, and sexuality

Juan Diego Mariategui (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/juan-diego-mariategui/>), Romance Languages and Literatures  
Hispanic Caribbean, Puerto Rico and Cuba  
Relationship between literary representation, politics, and space; theoretical connections between ecocriticism, critical disaster studies, and biopolitics; and the links between the Hispanic Caribbean and Latin America

Luis Martinez (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/luis-martinez/>), Harris School of Public Policy  
Colombia  
Political economy of development, particularly the relationship between taxation, accountability, and governance

Miguel Martínez (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/miguel-martinez/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
Latin America  
Cultural and literary histories of early modern Iberia and colonial Latin America; the ways in which early modern historical processes such as the printing and military revolutions, or the first globalization, contributed to a partial democratization of literary practices

Amy Leia McLachlan (<https://globalstudies.uchicago.edu/people/amy-leia-mclachlan/>), Global Studies  
Colombia  
Politics of plant life in the Colombian Amazon; extractive botanical economies (rubber, cocaine, pharmaceuticals); ethnobotany and curing in the Uitoto diaspora; displacement, world-making, trauma, gender

Alicia Menendez (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/alicia-menendez/>), Harris School of Public Policy  
Argentina, Latin America  
Development economics; education and health; labor markets; household behavior

Eduardo Montero (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/eduardo-montero/>), Harris School of Public Policy  
Central America  
How institutions and culture affect development and development policy in Central America and Central Africa; development economics, political economy, economic history, and the intersections between these interrelated topics

Salikoko Mufwene (<https://linguistics.uchicago.edu/salikoko-s-mufwene/>), Department of Linguistics  
Caribbean, Atlantic World  
Evolutionary linguistics (including the emergence of Creoles, the indigenization of European colonial languages, language vitality); Bantu linguistics; language contact in Africa and the Caribbean

Sarah Newman (<https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/directory/Sarah-Newman/>), Department of Anthropology  
Mesoamerica  
Archaeology and ethnohistory; waste, refuse, and reuse; zooarchaeology; human-animal relationships; landscape archaeology; human-environment interactions

Stephan Palmié (<https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/directory/Stephan-Palmie/>), Department of Anthropology  
Cuba

Ethnography and history of Afro-Caribbean cultures, with an emphasis on Afro-Cuban religious formations; practices of historical representation and knowledge production; systems of slavery and unfree labor; constructions of race and ethnicity; conceptions of embodiment and moral personhood; medical anthropology; anthropology of food and cuisine

Kaneesha Parsard (<http://english.uchicago.edu/kaneesha-parsard/>), Department of English  
Caribbean (British West Indies)

Legacies of slavery and emancipation in the Americas, and particularly concerns how gender and sexuality structure race, labor, and capital; Black feminisms, transnational feminisms, and materialist feminisms; Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora, African American, and feminist and queer visual cultures; archives; property and inheritance; and the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds

Mercedes Pascual (<https://ecologyandevolution.uchicago.edu/faculty/mercedes-pascual-phd/>),  
Department of Ecology and Evolution  
Latin America

Theoretical ecology; infectious disease dynamics; ecological networks; spatio-temporal dynamics of infectious diseases in large cities of the developing world

Pablo Peña (<https://economics.uchicago.edu/directory/Pablo-Pena/>), Department of Economics  
Mexico

Empirical economics and human capital theory; use of large data sets to test economic theories of behavior

François G. Richard (<https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/directory/Francois-G-Richard/>), Department of  
Anthropology

Mexico, West Africa, France

Material histories of French colonialism and imperialism; French colonial presence in Mexico and its legacies in the present

James Robinson ([http://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/faculty/james\\_robinson/](http://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/faculty/james_robinson/)), Harris School of Public  
Policy

Haiti, Colombia, Latin America

Political and economic development; root causes of conflict; relationship between poverty and the institutions of a society; how institutions emerge out of political conflicts

Danielle Roper (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/danielle-roper/>), Department of Romance Languages and  
Literatures

Peru, Colombia, Jamaica

Contemporary racial and queer performance, racial formation, feminist activism, and visual culture in the Hemispheric Americas

Mario Santana (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/mario-santana/>), Department of Romance Languages and  
Literatures

Latin America

Twentieth-century Latin American literature, narrative, and film; literary historiography; literary theory (hermeneutics and reception, narratology, systemic and institutional approaches to literature); cultural studies

Victoria Saramago (<https://rll.uchicago.edu/victoria-saramago/>), Department of Romance Languages  
and Literatures

Brazil, Latin America

Twentieth- and twenty-first century Latin American literature, with a focus on Brazil; ecocriticism and fiction theory; theoretical approaches to the representation of forest and rural areas in Latin American fiction

Diana Schwartz Francisco (<https://clas.uchicago.edu/directory/Diana-Schwartz-Francisco/>), Center for  
Latin American Studies/Department of History

Mexico, Latin America

Indigenous politics; the nexus between economic development and environmental change in Latin America; the history and politics of social science; race in the Americas

Paul Sereno (<http://www.paulsereno.org/>), Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy  
Argentina, Mexico, Chile

Paleontology; evolution; fossil record in Argentina

Salomé Aguilera Skvirsky (<http://cms.uchicago.edu/faculty/skvirsky/>), Department of Cinema and  
Media Studies

Latin America

Latin American cinema and media; nonfiction cinema and media; Third Cinema; cinema and labor; race and representation; useful cinema

Susan Stokes (<https://political-science.uchicago.edu/directory/susan-stokes/>), Department of Political  
Science

Latin America

Democratic theory and how democracy functions in developing societies; distributive politics; comparative political behavior

Megan Sullivan (<https://arthistory.uchicago.edu/faculty/profiles/sullivan/>), Department of Art History  
Brazil, Argentina  
Modern and contemporary Latin American art; abstraction; modernism in a global context; the relationship of aesthetic modernism and social and economic modernization outside of the North Atlantic; artistic and intellectual exchanges between Latin America and other regions over course of the twentieth century

Christopher Taylor (<https://english.uchicago.edu/people/christopher-taylor/>), Department of English  
Americas, British West Indies  
Hemispheric Americas in the nineteenth century; how the British West Indies were linked to worlds beyond the boundaries of the British Empire

Mauricio Tenorio (<http://history.uchicago.edu/directory/mauricio-tenorio/>), Department of History  
Mexico  
Political and cultural histories of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Kris Trujillo (<https://complit.uchicago.edu/kris-trujillo/>), Department of Comparative Literature  
US  
Christian mystical tradition; modern citations of the medieval; Latinx literature; queer of color critique

Gerdine Ulysse (<https://rl.uchicago.edu/gerdine-ulyse/>), Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Haiti  
French and Haitian Creole language; language variation and language attitudes and factors influencing multilingualism and literacy development in Creolophone communities

Austin L. Wright (<https://harris.uchicago.edu/directory/austin-wright/>), Harris School of Public Policy  
Colombia  
Political economy of conflict and crime in Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, and Iraq

Alan Zarychta (<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/directory/alan-zarychta/>), Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, And Practice  
Central and South America  
Politics of social services; public health and environmental policy; sources and effects of institutional reforms aiming to improve local service delivery

Sj Zhang (<https://english.uchicago.edu/people/sj-zhang/>), Department of English  
Caribbean  
Seventeenth- through nineteenth-century archives of slavery and marronage in the United States and Caribbean; how resistance practices and flight from enslavement by Black and Native individuals in the Caribbean and North America shaped textual and visual production in the colonial period; constructions of gender, race, and forms of bondage before 1850

Erik Zyman (<https://linguistics.uchicago.edu/erik-zyman/>), Department of Linguistics  
Mexico  
Theoretical syntactician, research languages have included P'urhepecha and Teotitlán del Valle Zapotec

