

Annual Report of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

1. President's Report by Gabriela Vargas-Cetina (Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan)

It has been an honour and a challenge to preside over the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology as of November 2005. Many changes have occurred since. To begin with, we changed the name of our Society, from Society for Latin American Anthropology (SLAA) to Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA). This new name reflects an important theoretical shift in the focus of our AAA section, which is now part of our mission statement, approved by general vote of our membership in the past Spring elections. We believe that the Caribbean and the area generally known as Latin America should be understood in relation to one another, and that both 'Latin America' and 'the Caribbean' have to be understood as encompassing first generation migrants around the world.

This new definition of our area of interest has also brought us closer to the Society of Latino and Latina Anthropologists (ALLA) and we hope to expand our collaboration with that section in the near future. Right now, we have established a tradition of holding a joint reception at the AAA meetings, and of sending a representative of our section to their meetings, and receiving one of theirs at ours.

Also, our Society managed this year to hold regular elections again, and elect two new Councilors, Susan Paulson and Carla Guerron-Montero. Both are established Latin American and Caribbeanists. Carla is in charge of expanding our ties with Caribbeanist scholars both in the Caribbean and elsewhere. She has started a database of universities around the world where the Caribbean is an area of anthropological interest. Susan Paulson, in the meantime, is in charge of resuscitating our e-newsletter. We expect this will happen in a very near future. Keeping our commitment to students, another new Councilor who took office in November 2006 is Maria Eugenia Brockman, our Student Councilor. Maria Eugenia will be in charge of the e-list when Rita Henderson, our outgoing student Councilor, leaves the yahoo group she created to provide us with a common and constant e-forum.

During 2006 Rita Henderson created a list-serve through yahoo groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SLACA/> The only requirement to join is to have a yahoo account. We welcome non-members who may be interested in the activities, discussions and workings of our society. Yahoo accounts are free, and yahoo continues to be a reliable multi-purpose, free e-platform, with services that range from personal email to blogs and group communication.

Also during 2006 we began to create stronger links to the Caribbean, beyond the change of name of our Society. One of our special guests at the Conversations across the Americas SLACA special event at the annual AAA meetings in San Jose was Pety Heinz, the current President of the Society for Caribbean Studies. Our other speakers were Bela Feldman, from Brazil, and Joe Heyman, both long-standing members of our Section. Aida Hernandez had commitments that kept her from attending the session, and we hope she can accompany us in some future special events. During the Conversations session it became clear that the recognition of the Caribbean as part of Latin America and vice-versa was long overdue.

In November 2006, during our annual business meeting, we created the figure of Treasurer Elect. The advent of AnthroSource has made it very difficult for a single person to be in charge of our finances. Elayne Zorn became our first Treasurer Elect by general acclamation of the assembly. We still need to change our bylaws to reflect this new imperative and add this new figure to our Board. Hopefully this will be accomplished during the 2007 Spring Elections.

A major event during the 2006 AAA conference in November, in San Jose, was the SLACA Presidential Lecture delivered by Bruce Mannheim, who explored the many complicities local elites (including academics) and foreign scholars fall into during anthropological research. Bruce's presentation confirmed his continued academic leadership in anthropology at large. All SLACA invited and volunteered sessions this year were also highly erudite and showcased our section as one of the most theoretically-driven in the AAA in general, showing, as it had happened the previous year, that our membership is at both the theoretical and ethnographic forefront of our discipline.

During 2006 Hortensia Caballero kept the SLACA column in Anthropology News as a vibrant space for discussion and for the participation of our membership, including students, in discussion surrounding SLACA's areas of anthropological interest. Steffan Igor Ayora-Diaz, who was in charge of the AAA program of our section, did a superb job at coordinating the team that put together an intellectually stimulating and thematically diverse program (see his report below). Travis DuBry set up a new home site for SLACA and thus revitalized communication within our membership and with the general public. Also in 2006 I coordinated the reviews of the papers submitted to our first competition for the Roseberry-Nash Graduate Student Paper Award, and Brian Burke was the first winner of our student prize. I thank Steffan Igor Ayora-Diaz, Carla Guerron-Montero and cultural historian Micol Seigel for their work as reviewers of the many submissions we had to this year's competition. Igor led the team in charge of the SLACA programme at the AAA conference. We all thank him for the excellent results.

During 2006 we sent out a call for a new editor of our journal, the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. Under Jean Rahier's leadership, JLACA has become one of the leading journals in Latin American studies at large. His vision has radically transformed the format and contents of JLACA, and the support we received from Florida International University has been invaluable. Andrew Canessa is our incoming editor. We welcome him and thank him for accepting to front our flagship journal.

2. Report by the Treasurer, Jeffrey H. Cohen (Ohio State University)

Brief description of 2006 activities to continue in 2007:

In 2006 SLACA awarded three travel grants of \$200. We also plan to co-sponsor a reception with ALLA at the annual meeting to the American Anthropological Association Association (aprox. \$1200). In addition, we have set aside \$500 for the Nash-Roseberry award (an award to recognize the excellence of students who are coming into the field applying creatively anthropological theory to their field data.

Additional, we have budgeted funds to support the publication of our journal, the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. For 2007, we may have to cover production costs of the journal as we are still in the process of selecting a new editor. It is our hope that the editor's institution will pick up some of the costs of production, however, SLACA realizes this may not happen. In this case, we will turn to our Society's assets for these expenses. They should be in the \$5,000 range.

Brief description of new activities planned for 2007:

We have tentatively planned to raise our membership fees to \$35.00 per year for full members and to leave the rate for students unchanged (we can raise the fee at the start of 2007).

In addition, we will budget \$2,000 to cover expenses for the new editor to travel to Florida and meet with Jean Rahier (our current editor).

We will budget funds (\$5,000) for journal expenses. These are to cover the costs of the journal's publication if the editor's school cannot lend support.

Lastly, right now we feel the only way we can maintain our society's financial health might be by dropping out of ANTHROSOURCE and reducing our costs by nearly \$16,000. We will not make this decision lightly, and we understand that it may cost us dearly in terms of our relationship with the AAA. Nevertheless, the costs of UCP and Anthrosource (reproduced below) are extremely high and untenable for our society. Our responsibility is to our membership-and to serve our members best, we believe this is the only option open to us at this point.

UCP Copyediting & Composition Fee	2769	4760	4984
	-	-	-
Subtotal Print Publication Expense	15727.44	22432	19098
UCP Marketing & Admin Fee	5501.72	6471	8087
UCP Production Editing Coordination	4892.12	4629	4786
UCP Fulfillment	839.5	1027	3089
	-	-	-
Subtotal UCP Management Fee	11233.34	12127	15962

3. Report by the Editor of the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Jean Rahier (Florida International University)

General Summary, 2006

1	Total # of pages	518
	Total # of issues	2
2	Publication Timelines	
	11.1	ON TIME
	11.2	ON TIME

3	Manuscripts: Submitted	50
4	Manuscripts: Accepted	18
5	Manuscripts: Revise and Resubmit	9
	Withdrawn	3
	Rejected	6
6	Average time from submission to acceptance	10 weeks
7	Plans for 2007	<p>First JLACA issue Turning JLACA over to new editor in late summer 2007: Andrew Canessa, University of Essex, the U.K. <canessa@essex.ac.uk></p> <p>Stop publishing the book & film reviews in print, to have them exclusively on AnthroSource. This should bring down the number of printed pages, and the printing cost.</p> <p>The new editor will consider changing the size of the journal's pages, so to bring their number down, along with the cost of printing.</p>
8	Anticipated changes in editorial staffing in 2007	In late summer 2007, change of editor. The new editor will work with a book & film review editor based in the U.S.
9	Number of Book and Film Reviews and Review Essays printed	78

I am very pleased to be able to say that I will be passing on a journal that is in a different place than when I received it: The presentation of the journal changed. The format of the journal now includes scholarly discussions around one or two of the research articles published in each general issue (numerous members have told me that they really enjoy this change); an "Actualidades" section with articles by senior scholars, Latin American and Caribbean activists, and others on current issues; a book and film and essay reviews section.

I am distressed by the current financial situation of the journal. While on the one hand the journal's general "quality" might be improving, on the other hand the financial situation slowly became disastrous with the passing to AnthroSource. I hope that the right decisions will be made, at the various levels involved, to secure the survival of the journal. I am not sure that a loan from the AAA to the society (SLACA) is the best solution. A bail out is, I'm afraid, the only viable solution, particularly when considering the disproportional cost paid by the society for the move to AnthroSource. While before AnthroSource the finances of SLACA were healthy (around \$40,000.00 of reserves), they are now, two years after AnthroSource, in the red...

3. Report by the Program Chair, Steffan Igor Ayora-Diaz (Autonomous University of Yucatan)

This year SLACA did not propose a different theme under the general *critical intersections/Dangerous issues* and, by February 20, a SLACA call for papers was sent by email to the list-serve. No special deadline was set for invited sessions. Under this general call for papers, we received 25 individually submitted papers and three individual posters. The evaluation committee, constituted by Steffan Igor Ayora Diaz, Travis DuBry, and Hortensia Caballero organized them into four paper-sessions and one poster session that were added to the 18 organized sessions that were originally submitted for the society for evaluation, for a final total of 23 sessions. No papers, posters or sessions were rejected. Six session organizers had requested their sessions to be considered for 'invited' status, and the three sessions that the committee ranked first were the ones selected for such status.