

# La Compañera

Latin American Studies Newsletter

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With the election of Donald Trump as U.S. President, relations between the US and Latin America have been under close scrutiny to see what, if anything, will change. **Al Montero, Frank B. Kellogg Professor of Political Science**, gave *La Compañera* his thoughts on how a Trump presidency could impact relations with Latin America.

## *On Mexico*

"Trump is all over the place with Mexico," began Montero, indicating that Mexico is the country we are most likely to see shifting tides during the Trump administration. "His campaign rhetoric and his insistence on building a wall, talk of adding a 20% tariff, renegotiating NAFTA, all of that has a chilling effect on improving relations." The relationship with Mexico pre-Trump was pretty good—Mexico is one of our closest trade partners (after China), and NAFTA was a positive development for trade across Mexico and Canada. One of the few benefits Montero sees is that "the building of the wall and talk of having Mexico pay for it has had the impact of uniting political parties, who can agree that Trump is a clear and present danger in Mexico." Because of this and other factors, like price, Montero thinks the wall is unlikely to be built. "The wall is said to cost between 20 and 25 billion dollars—I'm not sure that's going to happen. That's a very large price tag that I don't see Congress actually passing, and it certainly wouldn't pass with Democrats. There's an anti-immigrant population in this country, for sure, but it's not so large that it would cause a supermajority in the Senate." He thinks in general, Mexican business owners will be cautious when dealing with Trump. "It's hard to predict the future, but I can't imagine the relationship with Mexico will get a whole lot better. Who knows what's motivating him? A lot of his actions, his tweets, seem to be aimed at placating his base." Only time will tell how relations with Mexico will continue to play out.

## *On Latin America*

Montero said that Trump has kept fairly mum on Latin America, and with the exception of the defeat of Elliott Abrams as Rex Tillerson's Undersecretary of State for Latin America, not much has changed so far. Abrams is "an old Cold War warrior from the Reagan and Bush era. He did a lot of damage, is seen as one of the worst American diplomats." Montero said that we dodged a bullet by getting Abrams away from Latin American policy, which happened because he was apparently anti-Trump during the election, so Trump ousted him, even though Tillerson wanted him in. "If he'd wanted to offend Latin America, Abrams would be the guy," he told *La Compañera*. Tillerson himself, however, seems to be "tone deaf" towards the region, with little to no knowledge of Latin America at all. For the region in general, Montero thinks, "we're going to get a continuation, somewhat, of indifference.

Obama wasn't great for Latin America either, but he wasn't openly hostile, and Trump, arguably, is openly hostile, to Mexico at least. I don't know of anything Trump has said about Brazil, or any of the southern cone countries other than Argentina. Thankfully he hasn't said much about Venezuela, which is going downhill very quickly."

### *On Cuba*

Trump also hasn't publicly said much about Cuba, with the exception of his November 26<sup>th</sup> tweet, "Fidel Castro is dead!" Montero isn't sure what will happen, as nothing has really shifted from Obama opening up relations a few years ago. "It's quite likely that the policy just won't change, it will stagnate." He was skeptical of the optimism that some people have that "the businessman Trump will prevail, and he'll see opening up further to Cuba as good for American investments, and business." Montero pointed out, "That's running against his narrative right now, because he wants businesses to stay in the US, he's all about jobs in the US—Cuba doesn't create any jobs in the US, and arguably takes capital out of the country." Even the tourism business interests that have started working their way into the country will be slow-moving, According to Montero, "The whole notion of getting airlines, Visa, Mastercard, American hotel chains down there is something I don't see opening up very quickly at all. Trump could surprise me, though. I doubt that Cuba is suddenly going to shift from conservative communists to risk-taking entrepreneurs—Cuba doesn't operate that way. It's a slow moving type of place because the Communist party worries in its bones about losing control."

### *Events*

#### **Latin American Studies Senior Comps Talks**

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Gould Library Athenaeum  
5:00pm-6:00pm

**Jack Bredar:** *Innovación Columbiana: The Transformation of Bogotá Under the Leadership of Antanas Mockus and Enrique Peñalosa*



**Joshua Reason:** *Incomodando os brancos: Blackness and Urban Space in Salvador da Bahia*

#### **Gary Wynia Memorial Lecture: Cuba's Economic and Social Development Policy Trajectory & Choices**

Friday, February 24, 2017

Profess **Jorge Domínguez** will speak at the Wynia Memorial Lecture on Latin American Political Economy.

A reception will follow the lecture.

## *Spring Term Classes*

### **LTAM 398: Latin American Forum**

**Professor Jorge Brioso**

**2 credits**

This colloquium will explore specific issues or works in Latin American Studies through discussion of a common reading, public presentation, project, and/or performance that constitute the annual Latin American Forum. Students will be required to attend two meetings during the term to discuss the common reading or other material and must attend, without exception. All events of the Forum which take place during fourth week of spring term (on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning). A short integrative essay or report will be required at the end of the term. Intended as capstone for Latin American Studies concentrators.

### **POSC 221: Latin American Politics, Professor Al Montero**

**6 credits**

Comparative study of political institutions and conflicts in selected Latin American countries. Attention is focused on general problems and patterns of development, with some emphasis on U.S.-Latin American relations.

FLAC

### **SPAN 356: The Political and Cultural History of the Cuban Revolution, Professor Jorge Brioso**

**6 credits**

In 2014 Obama and Castro simultaneously announced the end of an era: the Cold War. This announcement was a turning point for one of the most influential and symbolically important political movements in Latin America: The Cuban Revolution. We will study the political and historical background

that sustained this revolution for over fifty years. We will read historical, political, philosophical, and cultural texts to understand this process and the fascination that it commanded around the world. We will also examine the different exoduses that this revolution provoked and the exile communities that Cubans constructed in different parts of the world.

*Prerequisite:* Spanish 205 or above

### **SPAN 371: Yours Truly: The Body of the Letter, Professor Silvia López**

**6 credits**

This course will focus on letters and their significance as acts of symbolic and material exchange, as objects that bear the mark of the bodily act of writing, and as a staging of the scene of writing itself. We will study different types of letters (love letters, prison letters, literary letters, letters imbedded in other texts, fictional letters, epistolary novels, etc.), but always as the site of production of a modern and gendered self. Texts by Simón Bolívar, Manuela Sáenz, Rosa Luxemburg, Simone de Beauvoir, André Gorz, Pedro Salinas, Marina Tsvetaeva, Boris Pasternak, Paul Celan, Ingeborg Bachmann, Elena Poniatowska, Alan Pauls and Alfredo Bryce Echenique.

*Prerequisite:* Spanish 205 or above

## Latin American Forum 2017: The Cuban Revolution After Fidel Castro

April 21-22, 2017

Many have compared the normalization of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States with other milestones in US history such as Armstrong's first step on the moon, the assassination of John F. Kennedy or the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Others have emphasized the good fortune new generations of US citizens have because they can now travel to Cuba as compared to those born during the Cold War who were not able to travel freely to the island. Why is reestablishing diplomatic relations and being able to travel freely to Cuba so decisive for the United States? What impact has the Cuban Revolution had in the political history of the twentieth century? How did the Cuban Revolution change the lives of millions of Cubans both inside and outside the island? This year's Foro Latinoamericano will explore these questions. We will examine issues related to the artistic sphere and the political history of the Cuban Revolution with our guests **Geandy Pavón**, Cuban artist; **Rachel Price**, cultural critic and professor at Princeton University; and **Rafael Rojas**, cultural and political historian at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City and Princeton Global Scholar.



Superheroes, Artist: Geandy Pavon

### PROGRAM

*All Lectures will be in the Athenaeum*

*Friday, April 21 (Athenaeum)*

**5:00 p.m. Welcome**  
Professor **Beverly Nagel**, Dean  
of College

*Mutations of the Concept of Revolution in Cuba (1959-1976)*

**Rafael Rojas**, Scholar at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City and Princeton Global Scholar.

*Saturday, April 22 (Athenaeum)*

9:00 a.m. Coffee and rolls

9:30 a.m. *Rereading the Revolution Today*, **Rachel Price**, Associate Professor,  
Princeton University

10:30 a.m. *Art and Activism: A Personal Reflection*, **Geandy Pavón**, Artist.

# NEW! From Concentration to Minor: Requirements

Beginning next year, LTAM will officially become a minor and will appear as such beginning with the class of 2018.

Minors must complete the following:

HIST 170: Modern Latin America, 1810-present

LTAM 300: Issues in Latin American Studies (Fall 2017)

LTAM 398: Foro Latinoamericano 2 credits (Spring)

One additional survey course, selected from:

POSC 221: Latin American Politics (Spring 2017)

SOAN 250: Ethnography of Latin America Spring (Spring 2018)

SPAN 242: Introduction to Latin American Literature (Winter 2018)

And 30 credits in electives.

Concentrators must also complete Spanish 204 or equivalent. Electives are to be drawn from two separate lists (Arts/Literature & History/Social Sciences) with a minimum of 12 credits taken from each list. See the [Academic Catalog](#) for details. No more than three courses from the student's major may apply to the minor, and no more than three in the same discipline. Up to twelve elective credits may be comparative or Latino in focus. Up to 18 credits from approved off-campus programs may be counted as electives.

## Requirements for a Major:

Students complete a minimum of sixty-six credits in approved courses for the major. Majors must also demonstrate competence in Spanish by completing Spanish 205 or equivalent.

Required Courses: *(The following core courses are required of all majors):*

HIST 170: Modern Latin America, 1810-present (Winter)

LTAM 300: Issues in Latin American Studies (Spring)

LTAM 400: Integrative Exercise

In addition, majors are required to complete: Two 300-level Latin American literature courses, one 300-level History or Social Science course focused on Latin America, and 30 additional credits of electives. A list of qualifying courses can be found in the [Academic catalog](#).

Students are strongly encouraged to complete the 300-level history or social science course prior to writing their integrative exercise, and to select a 300-level course in a discipline appropriate to the focus of their anticipated comps topic. Students who complete this requirement with a 300-level history course must take at least one approved social science course as an elective.

Up to 27 credits from work in approved off-campus programs may be counted as electives for the major. Students may count up to 12 credits in comparative and/or U.S. Latino courses as electives. No more than four courses (twenty-four credits) in any one discipline may apply to the major.

## OCS in Latin America:

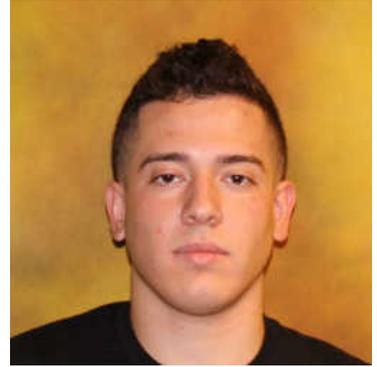
[El Mundo Maya: Anthropology in Guatemala & Chiapas](#), led by Professor Jay Levi is happening during Winter term 2018! The deadline to apply is April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

[Society, Culture, Language in Perú](#) Spring 2017/Spring 2019.

# Current Comps Projects

## Raúl Gúzman

I intend to study indigenous politics in Latin American countries that have elected left-of-center presidents. The countries of interest include Ecuador, Bolivia, and Perú. Left-of-center presidents—Rafael Correa (Ecuador), Evo Morales (Bolivia), and Alan García (Perú)—campaign on platforms that promised to address the shortcomings of the neoliberal economic model of development through the redistribution of wealth as well as the political and economic incorporation of marginalized groups such as the lower working classes. Specifically, I will study the degree of success of the incorporation of indigenous constituents within these countries. I am interested in this topic because the socioeconomic and sociopolitical incorporation of indigenous people provides crucial insight on how the state in major developing Latin American countries broaden their perspective and reinterpret the deepening of democracy.



## Gabriela Bosquez

For my comps project I am taking apart a cultural practice that is close to home: watching telenovelas. This ritual is a sacred part of my home life because it is a moment in which family members are all united to share the same interest for *la novela*. Telenovelas connect Latin American people across the world, and are serving wider global audiences. In many ways the telenovela can be interpreted as a cultural product, or archetype, and it is important to depict what it reflects about a particular culture. As of more recently novelas have taken a sociopolitical stance in their narratives by shedding light on the drug war, resulting in a higher demand for narco-novelas. These novelas in their narratives interpret the current state of the drug war locally and across the world. What I am interested in demonstrating is how a famous telenovela like *La Reina del Sur* can be considered a cultural product that aims to depict a critical point in current history.