# **SLAS 2019**

# **University of Leicester, 4th & 5th April 2019**

# **Conference Report**

1. **Conference Finances & Participation Overview**

**1. Conference Fees:**

Early bird registration – 2nd November 2018 to 18th February 2019.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **SLAS Member Student /Unemployed/ Retired/Residents in Latin America** | **Non SLAS Member Student /Unemployed/ Retired/ Residents in Latin America** | **SLAS Member Delegate** | **Non SLAS Member Delegate** |
| **Day Rate** | £90 | £110 | £120 | £140 |
| **Full Conference Rate\*** | £170 | £200 | £220 | £250 |

Late Registration fees – 18th February 2019 – 15th March 2019:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **SLAS Member Student /Unemployed/ Retired** | **Non SLAS Member Student /Unemployed/ Retired** | **SLAS Member Delegate** | **Non SLAS Member Delegate** |
| **Day Rate** | £100 | £120 | £130 | £150 |
| **Full Conference Rate\*** | £190 | £220 | £240 | £270 |

 \*All rates include the conference dinner on Thursday 4th April at the Athena and the *Transtango* show.

**2. Income and Expenditure:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **INCOME** | |
| Combined Academic Publishers Ltd. (one stand and leaflets) £170 + £50 | £220 |
| University of Wales Press (inserts in bags) | £50 |
| Gazelle (inserts in bags) | £50 |
| Wiley (PPT slide at venue) – Heather Saunders (£300 in total, including VAT) | £210 |
| [Iberoamericana Vervuert](https://www.iberoamericana-vervuert.es/) (inserts in bags) | £50 |
| Manchester University Press (inserts in bags) | £50 |
| Liverpool University Press (inserts in bags and abstract book advert) | £150 |
| Santander Grant (Travel Award for keynote) | £650 |
| RED (University of Leicester) | £150 |
| School of Arts (University of Leicester) | £300 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | £600 |
| Conference fees | £29,540 |
| TOTAL | £32,020 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| **EXPENDITURE** | |
| SLAS Cttee lunch (January 2019) + meeting on 3rd April | £109.85 + £9.14 = £118.99 |
| Pre-conference event 20.50 x 3 hrs + Skype + poster | £61.50 + £56 + £7.57 = 125.07 |
| Transtango Show expenses | £3,500 |
| College Court (includes lunch, coffee breaks, hire of extra rooms, subsides of rooms) | £17,542 |
| Conference Interns (five at £11.75 per hour X 6 HOURS A DAY x 2 days) | £705 |
| Stationery, printing etc | £697.60 brochure  £446.40 bags (Mojo)  Vistaprint £38.79 + £61.40 (Transtango leaflet)  Lanyards £167.70  Badges £90  T-Shirts £90.66  Taxi conference committee £6 |
| Plenary speaker | Flight tickets = £666.60  Taxi/Train Tickets London-Leicester= £125  Meal at Leicester night 3rd= £23 |
| Conference Dinner  Delegate Rate 151 @ £34.95ea + Vat = £6332.94 House White Wine 16 @ £19.50 = £312.00 House Red Wine 16 @ £19.50 = £312.00 Sparkling Water 16 @ £4.00 = £64.00 Total = £7020.94 - £503.28 deposit (advanced by SLAS) | £6,517.66 |
| TOTAL | £30,921.87 |

**3. Final Conference Profit:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **INCOME £32,020 – EXPENDITURE £30,921.87** | **£1,098.13** |

Given the current financial contexts surround UK HE, and with a focus on the aims of the conference – promotion of Latin American Studies, community building and networking opportunities, showcasing current research in our diverse field – our goal was to break even on conference income/expenditure. We are therefore very happy with the result.

## **4. Registration Figures & Fees**

We had 162 delegates registered of whom:

* 112 attended both days of the conference
* 151 attended the conference dinner
* 54 were not members of SLAS
* 71 paid the student / retired / unemployed / Residents of Latin America rate
* 118 paid by the early bird discount deadline of 18th February

We decided to keep the same registration prices that were offered at the last three SLAS conferences, but on this occasion we included in all fee options the cost of the conference dinner, in the aim of promoting attendance to both days of the event and the dinner itself. We also added the new category of ‘Residents of Latin America’ to the special discounted fee rates, and we subsidised the rooms of the on-site conference venue hotel to try to encourage as many people as possible to be present at the venue. Our aim was for this to promote networking and community building opportunities outside the regular conference hours. The hotel was at full capacity for the conference dates, mostly with SLAS delegates. All conference fees also included lunch, coffee breaks, and the costs of the various amenities in each of the conference rooms.

1. **Conference Planning & Organisation Overview**

## **5. Conference Theme and Ethos**

Our conference organisation was underpinned by an ethos of inclusivity in all of the activities we organised, from the pre-conference film screening of a documentary exploring women in politics and power in rural Peru, to the art exhibitions and multimedia show *Transtango*, each of which explored the complexities of identity and migration, through to the selection of an internationally-renowned feminist scholar as our keynote speaker. Moreover, in selecting papers and constructing panels, we strived to ensure that each panel was as inclusive as possible with scholars at all stages of their careers from different countries and institutions.

In line with previous conferences, SLAS 2019 was an opportunity for explorations of any aspect of Latin American Studies, from any theoretical and disciplinary perspective, but we have also been extremely pleased to receive so many paper and panel proposals related to our optional conference theme: the Politics of Identity in Latin America. This choice of topic was inspired by the vibrant waves of feminist activism that have been gaining ground across Latin America in recent years; movements which, by giving voice to women’s concerns and demanding respect of their human rights, are also making important contributions to social acceptance of difference and diversity, to improving poverty, and facilitating peace – thus emphasising the interconnectedness of all aspects of identity politics. Our theme therefore made space for discussions not only of gender, but of matters of sexuality, race and ethnicity, disability, ideological beliefs and political affiliations; of notions of marginalisation and belonging, participation and oppression, cultural diversity and social and political agency; of distinct articulations of the individual and the national, the local and the global.

## **6. Keynote Speaker**

## Discretion in deciding the keynote is left to the local organizing committee. Given our research interests and the underpinning ethos we were aiming for, we were keen to invite a scholar with a commitment to challenging discrimination, de-centring knowledge production and bringing feminist praxis to the heart of scholarly activism. We were extremely pleased to welcome Dr María Pía López; an Argentine sociologist, writer and activist whose work with the *Ni una menos* movement made her a truly fitting speaker for the conference theme. We had an outstanding participation of 150 plus people attending the talk, making the event a memorable success.

## **7. Call for Papers, Creating Panels, and Final Programme**

We issued a call for papers and panels on the 1st July 2018 with a deadline of 1st October, which was extended by one month. We accepted both individual papers and fully-formed panels, and also encouraged alternative formats (workshops, networking sessions).

We received approximately 270 proposals. The organising committee met, divided proposals by subjects and all were read by 2 people. In the end, only 3 proposals were rejected and this was mostly on the basis that they were much too broad for a 20-minute paper. Regarding this process, our advice for future organisers would be to use a pro-forma for proposal submissions, as colleagues at Glasgow did in 2017, to make certain that all required information is all present, and in the same order and format. We would have saved ourselves a lot of time on formatting for the programme had we used that wise approach!

Our provisional draft of the panels programme was sent out on November 6 2018. Beyond that point we avoided making changes to the day on which panels had been set, but some timing changes were unavoidable due to a number of people needing to request changes and/or due to some panel members dropping out. Finalising the programme was made more of a challenge by slow response to registration deadlines. After registration fully closed, one month before the conference, we had to remove people who had not registered from the programme and make final changes to panels. Our final draft was circulated on March 25 and again on March 27 with any requested details amended (spelling of names/paper titles etc.)

The timings of the programme were set in consultation with the SLAS committee, who recommended that we should have the special presidential panel standing on its own without parallel sessions – see ‘extra events’ section below –, and the AGM on a longer coffee break on Friday morning. We broadly followed the same programme that operated in previous conferences, but starting an hour earlier in order to accommodate all the appropriate breaks and special events.

We did receive some feedback comments that it would have been preferable to have the final programme sooner, and we appreciate the reasons behind these. For future organisers, we would suggest circulating a draft programme around the time we did (November) and then again in the early New Year, as its communication tends to be forgotten about! We chose not to put ours online until finalised because we wanted to be clear that registration was necessary for names and abstracts to be included in the conference programme, but in hindsight a draft clearly marked-up as such and available online would have been a good idea. We would also suggest having the final registration date a little sooner, to give you more time for this and would encourage being very clear on the implications of not registering by the deadline. Related to this, making very clear that panel organisers need to be responsible for getting their panel members to register would be a good idea – we had to do a lot of chasing!

## **8. Sponsorship**

We secured £300 from Wiley Blackwell in exchange for the use of screen savers with the image of the Bulletin of Latin American Studies Journal (which includes their logo) in all presentation rooms and for banner stands in the registration area. We also received £300 from the School of Arts at the University of Leicester, to cover the costs of accommodation of the plenary speaker, and we made a successful application for the full £650 fund available from Santander Universities, to pay for Dr López’s return flight. We also received financial support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and from the Research and Enterprise Division of the University of Leicester.

## **9. Publishers’ Fair**

We received a list from the previous SLAS conference organisers with suggestions of who to contact regarding participation in this event, and complemented this with further ideas from the organising committee. We contacted the following publishers regarding participation in the publishers’ exhibition and advertising in the conference pack and programme: Alborada, AMDigital, Berghahn, Boydell & Brewer, Cambridge University Press, Gale/Cengage, Combined Academic Publishers LtD, Duke University Press, Edinburgh University Press, European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (ERLACS), Gazelle Books, Gwasg Prfysgol Cymru – University of Wales Press, Iberoamericana, ILAS book series, Intellect Books, Liverpool University Press/Modern Languages Open, Manchester University Press, Nomos Verlag, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Pathfinder Books, Peter Lang, Penn State University Press, Pluto Press, Routledge, SAGE, Taylor & Francis Group (Routledge), Thompson Henry. UCL Press, WordPower, and Zed Books. We retained the same prices for this as at previous conferences.

Take-up from publishers was very limited this year, we think likely as a result of the changing contexts around how promotion of such materials, and measurement of the value of advertising/sales in this format, takes place. Up-take was as follows:

Exhibition single table (£170+VAT): Combined Academic Publishers

Exhibition double table (£250+VAT): N/A

Exhibition single table, one day, discounted rate for non-profit organisation (£43+VAT): N/A

Inserts in conference bags (£50+VAT):

Gazelle books

Liverpool University Press

Combined Academic Publishers

Manchester University Press

Iberoamericana

University of Wales Press

Full-page advert in pdf abstract book (£100+VAT): Liverpool University Press

## **10. Website & Social Media**

The conference webpages were hosted within the School of Arts/Modern Languages webpages, and contained information on the conference itself as well as general information about the city. See: <https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/modern-languages/newsandevents/slas2019>

The Modern Languages department and School of Arts departmental Twitter and Facebook accounts were also used to spread the word about conference events and participation.

## **12. Fringe/Special Events**

## On the Wednesday evening we held a film screening and Q&A event that was also open to the public. We screened the film*Return to the Andes* (Peru/USA 2019, Mitch Teplitsky), which was accompanied by a Q&A via Skype with both the director and protagonist of the documentary. This was followed by a pub social for those participants who were already in Leicester and wanted to come along. On Thursday night, after the conference dinner, we held a multimedia show produced exclusively for this occasion by the *Transtango* collective, with renowned musicians, dancers, and filmmakers.

Art Exhibitions throughout the conference

* Transtango: Urban Encounters

This exhibition showed paintings by artists Kushna Salaman-Butt and Viviana Devicki, and was an integral part of the interdisciplinary *Transtango* Show that follows the conference dinner on Thursday night at Athena, in Leicester city centre.

* *Pensando en Alternativas/Thinking About Alternatives*

The photos in this exhibition are the result of a participatory photography project with a group of twelve women from three women’s anti-mining activist organisations in the region of Cajamarca, Northern Peru. The project, led by Dr Katy Jenkins, aimed to capture the perspectives of women who are resisting large-scale resource extraction in the Peruvian Andes.

Special panels

* Presidential panel: ‘Working with European Partners in Latin American Studies after Brexit’

This panel of distinguished speakers provided an assessment of the situation in their respective national institutional contexts and offered insights into the current challenges – and opportunities – for research collaboration and funding for joint research projects as we move into an uncertain future.

* PILAS event

Grant proposal workshop and Q&A; Developing International Networks: An informal opportunity to meet Latin American Scholars

* *Research on Latin America at the University of Leicester*

The aim of the event was to promote knowledge exchange and increase opportunities for grant capture and future collaborations. Attendees had an opportunity to get to know the work on Latin America done across the University of Leicester, expand their network contacts, and learn about grant opportunities available.