
EDITOR'S FOREWORD

During the year 2002, the *Latin American Research Review* will continue to appear with the current editors and staff from the University of New Mexico on the masthead because those issues will have been edited and produced here in Albuquerque. At the same time, a new editorial team will be composing future issues at the University of Texas at Austin, which has been selected by the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association as the new host institution for *LARR*. Peter Ward will be the new Editor, and he will be joined by Naomi Lindstrom and Jonathan Brown as the new Associate Editors.

During this year of transition, the screening, reviewing, and selection of new manuscripts will be carried out by the editorial team at Texas, while the New Mexico team will deal with older manuscripts being reviewed externally or copyedited for appearance in Volume 37. The Texas editors will gradually assume the financial and other aspects of the journal, such as advertising, list maintenance, and subscription services, in collaboration with the University of Texas Press, which will handle many of these functions for the new editors.

This transition process will repeat the procedures recommended by former editor Joseph Tulchin when *LARR* moved from the University of North Carolina to the University of New Mexico in 1982. The rationale for such a phased transition seems as relevant today as two decades ago. Because it takes about a year, at best, for a manuscript to be published in *LARR*, the year of transition allows the new editors to be responsible for most of the material in the future issues that appears under their names. Just as important, the phased transfer allows for consultation and planning, ensuring that as few as possible of the many details involved in publishing go awry. One of the hallmarks of *LARR* since its establishment in the mid-1960s has been the devotion of the various editorial teams and staff members to maintaining the unique character and high standards of the journal.

In previous editor's forewords, I have occasionally reflected on the history of *LARR* and what might be called "the *LARR* tradition." The essence

of that tradition in my view has been the collective nature of the *LARR* enterprise from its very inception. *LARR* was founded by the directors of federally funded centers for Latin American studies, who in the early 1960s had previously established the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs. The CLASP institutions and the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress each pledged contributions over a two-year period to establish a fund with which to start *LARR*. Those contributions were matched by the Ford Foundation to create the working capital for *LARR* (which still exists as the *LARR* reserve fund). These institutions that contributed to *LARR*'s establishment are by tradition listed inside the back cover of the journal as the *LARR* Sponsoring Institutions.

The success of the new journal prompted the center directors to meet in Cuernavaca to plan for a new professional association to be known as the Latin American Studies Association. *LASA* and *LARR* were then incorporated together as a not-for-profit organization having two components, a secretariat to manage membership and organize meetings and the journal to disseminate research. Over the years, the secretariat and the journal have been housed at various institutions: the secretariat at the universities of Florida, Illinois, Texas, and Pittsburgh, and the journal at Texas, North Carolina, and New Mexico. Now *LARR* comes full circle in returning to its original host institution, the University of Texas at Austin.

Manuscript submissions to *LARR* during the year running from June 2000 through May 2001 grew modestly to 110, as compared with 102 the previous year. Eleven of these submissions were book review essays and 1 was withdrawn. The remaining 98 manuscripts entered the review process. By the end of May 2001, 8 of these manuscripts had been accepted for publication or accepted pending revisions, 57 had been rejected, and the remaining 33 were still under original review or a second review following revisions. An additional 11 manuscripts from the previous report period were also accepted after being revised and resubmitted. The publication rate for articles and research notes completing the review process (only those accepted or rejected) remained steady at about 10 percent of original submissions, with the proportion rising to about 20 percent of submissions if manuscripts accepted after revisions are included in the overall totals.

Patterns of submission by discipline were consistent with trends in recent years but somewhat more evenly spread than previously. The percentage of political science manuscripts declined to 26 percent of all submissions. History submissions constituted 22 percent of submissions. Economics submissions rose to 17 percent of the total, and sociology manuscripts followed closely with 14 percent. Literature manuscripts dropped slightly to 5 percent of submissions, down from 7 percent the year previous. Anthropology submissions fell from 5 percent to 2 percent. Other fields increased substantially to account for the remaining 14 percent of submissions. Among

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>June 2000- May 2001</i>	<i>June 1999- May 2000</i>	<i>June 1998- May 1999</i>
Political Science	26%	35%	35%
History	22	20	23
Economics	17	12	13
Sociology	14	12	10
Languages and Literature	5	7	10
Anthropology	2	5	4
Other fields	14	9	5
Totals	100%	100%	100%

the disciplines represented in this category were geography and environmental studies, education, religion, and art.

Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian authors or coauthors, including those living in Europe and North America, submitted 45 percent of all 2000–2001 submissions, as compared with 40 percent the previous year and 36 percent the year before that. Women authored or coauthored 36 percent of submissions, as opposed to 27 percent last year. Thirty-six percent of the manuscripts came from outside the United States, up from 27 percent the previous year. Fifty-eight percent of these non-U.S. manuscripts came from Latin America and the Caribbean, as compared with 68 percent in the preceding report period. The Latin American and Caribbean countries from which submissions originated were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Other countries represented included Canada, England, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Spain.

Last year in this foreword, I speculated on whether the availability of *LARR* on the Internet might lead to an increase in submissions, as well as readers, from beyond the borders of North America. Obviously, one year does not make a trend, but it is worth noting the substantial increase in submissions from outside the United States and the greater diversity of countries represented in those submissions.

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