
EDITOR'S FOREWORD

One of the most important developments in Latin American studies over the last decade has been an extraordinary increase in the volume and quality of research produced in Latin America. This research has developed not so much in universities, which in many countries were vitiated by military regimes and funding crises, as in specialized research institutes supported in considerable measure by funds from abroad. Many of the research institutes were founded as a defensive response by intellectuals ousted from university faculties during the repressions of the seventies. As scholars lost their students, their publics, and their livelihoods, they grouped together in small centers or institutes for mutual support.

Once intellectuals were writing for each other, rather than for a wider public, they were largely ignored by authoritarian regimes. The new centers were characterized by a sense of solidarity, a generosity of spirit, and an intensity of interaction that all contributed to the quality of work produced. The somewhat nationally oriented research agendas of the scholars who survived in these institutes became increasingly cosmopolitan through exchanges with colleagues in voluntary or involuntary exile in Europe or North America. Contacts with funding agencies abroad, born of adversity and nurtured by good will on both sides, led to a growing flow of support. This funding became an additional incentive to enhance the quality and volume of research produced. Over time the new institutes proliferated, becoming a major feature of intellectual life in their respective countries.

The movement toward democracy in several Latin American nations has not diminished the importance of the now well-established research institutes. The new democracies have empty treasuries with which to confront a major array of problems, including pent-up de-

mands for access to higher education. Although scholars in such countries are again teaching and writing for the public, they cannot live on their university stipends and remain dependent on the research institutes for economic survival. It now appears that the research houses will remain a fixed part of the Latin American scene even where the original impetus for their founding has passed.

These developments have had a mixed impact on the content of *LARR*. Indirectly, its pages have been enriched by the influence of research coming from Latin America. But the number of submissions to *LARR* from Latin America has not grown to a degree commensurate with the expansion of research in the region. During a recent visit to the Southern Cone by two of the *LARR* editors, this issue was discussed with scholars from a variety of centers and institutes. The consensus of our colleagues there is that a combination of factors make submission to U.S. and European journals somewhat problematic, including the need to produce immediate results for funding agencies, the ease of publication in Latin America, the longer time required for peer review and publishing abroad, and perhaps most important, the desire to contribute to intellectual debate in their own countries. Shortages of foreign currency have sharply restricted the availability of journals from abroad, which in any case never achieved wide circulation in Latin America.

The relatively slow growth of submissions to *LARR* from Latin America thus seems in considerable measure a consequence of the success of the new institutional framework for research that has emerged. To an unprecedented extent, the research communities of the major Latin American countries have become intellectually, if not always financially, self-sustaining. These circumstances suggest that the time is right to encourage manuscripts falling under the classic *LARR* rubric that was invented when the growth of disciplinary boundaries in the United States led to problems in staying abreast of new knowledge, namely, the survey article assessing trends in current research on Latin America. During their visit to the Southern Cone, the *LARR* editors asked for the submission of such essays, and here we wish to reiterate the call for these manuscripts to colleagues throughout Latin America.

In most other respects, the status of submissions to *LARR* seems healthy. In terms of calendar years, the number of submissions increased from 110 manuscripts in 1982 to 132 manuscripts in 1983 and to 160 manuscripts in 1984. The overall rate of submissions since the late 1970s has increased by more than 50 percent. Some 164 manuscripts were received for the period from May 1984 through June 1985, which means that submissions are continuing at the high rate of our previous report to the readership (*LARR* 19, number 3).

Twenty-two percent of the manuscripts evaluated came from out-

side the United States. Of these non-U.S. manuscripts, 58 percent were submitted from Latin America. Authors of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian origin submitted 34 percent of all manuscripts received. Interestingly, more manuscripts were submitted by Latin Americans living in the U.S., Canada, and Europe than from Latin America. Seventeen percent of the manuscripts were submitted by female authors, a drop of 8 percent since our last report.

Political science manuscripts remain in first place among submissions, with 26 percent of the total. Economics moved from third place in the previous reporting period to a tie for second place with history, each providing 18 percent of all submissions. Sociology submissions dropped precipitously, from second place to sixth place among the major disciplines, with only 8 percent of the manuscripts. Language and literature manuscripts increased slightly to 10 percent of submissions, holding to fourth ranking, and anthropology submissions jumped by half to 9 percent of submissions, edging out sociology for the first time in recent years.

<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>May 84– June 85</u>	<u>Feb. 83– April 84</u>	<u>July 81– Jan. 83</u>
Political Science	26%	29%	22%
Economics	18	13	14
History	18	12	18
Languages and Literature	10	9	9
Anthropology	9	6	4
Sociology	8	16	8
Other fields	11	15	25
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

As mentioned, between May 1984 and June 1985, 164 manuscripts were received. Of the 126 manuscripts that entered the review process by the end of June 1985, 13 were accepted, 92 were rejected, 1 was withdrawn, and 20 were still in process. Of the 105 manuscripts for which the review process reached completion (those either rejected or accepted), the rate of acceptance was about 12 percent. This apparently high rejection rate will be offset considerably by a higher acceptance rate among the manuscripts still in process, several of which are undergoing revision prior to probable acceptance.

While the flow of manuscripts has been more than adequate, reflecting the general health of Latin American studies, the *LARR* editors have thus far avoided accumulating a large backlog of accepted articles. Prospective authors who are interested in publishing surveys of current research on Latin America or original research contribu-

tions of general and interdisciplinary interest are encouraged to submit manuscripts to this journal. We do our best to see that all manuscripts are given thorough and thoughtful consideration.

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