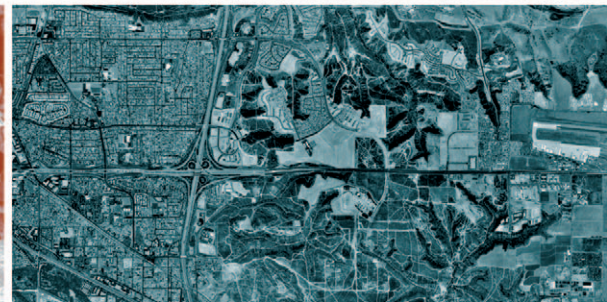




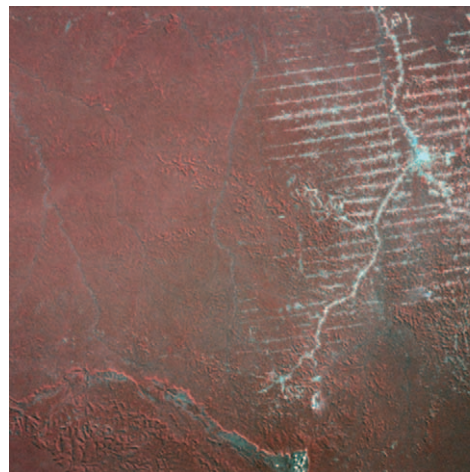
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE
A M E R I C A S
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON • SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY





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About the Institute

About the Institute

The Institute was founded in August 2004 through a merger of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) with the Institute of United States Studies (IUSS), both of which had been founded in 1965 at 31 Tavistock Square. Like its predecessors, the new Institute forms part of the University of London's School of Advanced Study.

The Council of the University of London approved the establishment of ISA on the understanding that it would be dedicated to teaching and research, not just on the USA and Latin America, but to the Americas as a whole, with proper attention to Canada and the Caribbean. ISA will uphold the dedication to area studies and multi-disciplinarity that animated its predecessors. No other institution in Europe offers such a combination of approaches.

The Institute greatly values collaboration with colleagues in the Colleges of the federal University as well as those in London's other universities. Such fellow scholars are encouraged to play an active part in the research and teaching programmes and so become Associate Fellows. At the same time, as an integral part of the School of Advanced Study, ISA has a mission to foster scholarly initiatives at a national level, ensuring an energetic and original British presence in the international, and especially trans-Atlantic, study of the western hemisphere.

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Teaching programmes

In its continued refinement of master's programmes on the USA and Latin America, the Institute remains strongly attached to those qualities associated with "area studies": the acquisition of detailed empirical knowledge of complex and often obscure phenomena, critically approached from both single- and multi-disciplinary perspectives within the humanities and social sciences.

ISA will develop research and critical reflection on the singularity of all parts of the continent, paying attention to its multiple differentiation, both from a historical perspective and with regard to contemporary affairs. It will also promote the provision of training in languages and specialist academic skills necessary for a proper understanding of the societies of the Americas and their environments.

The Institute is committed to the comparative study of the Americas whereby the balance of difference, similarity and commonality between the sections of the hemisphere is placed under fresh reconsideration. A new master's course in Comparative American Studies is to be offered from October 2005, and attention will be paid to developing postgraduate research in this understudied area.

A collaborative approach to teaching with other colleges of the University of London allows the Institute to offer the largest postgraduate programme on Latin America in the UK. The more focused programme on the United States is being comprehensively redeveloped with the appointment of new faculty. Courses from both programmes will be options on the comparative degree, which will have a dedicated core course as well as courses on Canada and the Caribbean.

Research supervision and advanced research training is available for doctoral students in history, politics, sociology and the economics of the Americas. ISA will take a leading part in postgraduate research training within the UK in all these fields, and it will play a full role in academic initiatives relating to the Americas both within Europe and in the wider world.

The teaching programme is augmented by the highly-rated research performance of the Institute's academic staff, an active programme of academic events and dedicated library resources with particular strengths in social science (Latin America) and humanities (the United States).

The Institute's students are drawn from throughout the Americas, Europe and the UK, which creates an exciting and energetic international culture in which to participate.

Programmes:

MA Area Studies (Comparative American Studies)

MA Area Studies (Latin America)

MA Area Studies (United States of America)

MSc Globalisation and Latin American Development

MSc Latin American Politics

MPhil/PhD

Courses are offered in the following disciplines: anthropology, cultural studies and literature, development, economics, geography and environment, history, music and film, politics and international relations, sociology.

Full details of the Institute's programmes and courses can be found on **www.americas.sas.ac.uk** and in the Institute's postgraduate prospectus, available from the Institute office.

Publications

A distinguished backlist of academic publications dating from the 1960s reflects the Institute's experience in publishing historical and contemporary research across a range of disciplines. Recent publications have included edited collections focusing on the politics, economics or environment of specific regions, as well as comparisons between the United States and Latin America.



The new Institute's remit will be to develop its range of titles further by expanding its focus on Canada and the Caribbean, as well as publishing more work of a comparative nature. The Institute welcomes publication proposals on relevant topics, and is particularly interested in exploring co-publication opportunities.

A full listing of publications is available online at www.sas.ac.uk/americas and via the Publications catalogue available from the Institute.

Events

An active programme of seminars, lectures, workshops and conferences is maintained to create opportunities for informed dialogue on matters of contemporary and historical relevance.

Established seminar series include those on US politics, history and culture; Latin American studies, including cultural studies; Caribbean studies, and Canadian studies, ensuring a full diary of evening activities during term-time. Focused workshops will continue to explore leading-edge issues with respected researchers in the field, while public conferences and lectures aim to attract significant names for the London audience. Many events aim for a publications outcome to enhance dissemination of recent, high-quality research.

A full programme of events is available online at www.americas.sas.ac.uk and in the Conference programme from the Institute office.



Research

Facilitation of high quality research on the Americas at a national level is central to the Institute's mission, which is principally realised through the programme of events and publications described above.

The Institute offers an advanced Research Training programme free of charge for all UK-based research students working on the Americas. The programme takes account of students' disciplinary and regional-specific research requirements and is led by active researchers and library specialists in the field.

Two valuable sources of information about hemisphere-wide American studies can be accessed at no cost via the internet:

- ★ The American Studies Research Portal (www.asrp.info), which focuses on the United States and Canada, contains information about academic researchers, library collections, publications and other resources across a wide range of social science and humanities disciplines. It also has a postgraduate section listing academic courses and providing advice to students and graduates, as well as a section promoting forthcoming events on relevant topics.
- ★ The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Research Portal (www.sas.ac.uk/ilas/handbook/search_index.asp) allows searching for degrees and courses, academic staff – including their recent publications – and research theses in progress and recently completed. It also covers a wide range of social science disciplines.

Library

The Institute benefits from the University of London's extensive library holdings on a wide range of disciplines and regions of interest.

The following collections on the Americas are held in participating libraries of the University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS):

- ★ Latin American Studies Library of the Institute for the Study of the Americas (21,435 monograph volumes). The Library maintains a collection of Latin American research and reference materials, including periodicals, monographs and electronic resources, with particular emphasis on humanities and related social sciences. It plays a leading role in the development of Latin American collections in the University of London, and in the European coordination of documentation on Latin America.
- ★ Latin American/Caribbean Studies Collection (60,386 volumes), Senate House Library maintains a research level collection which covers most aspects of Latin America and the Caribbean, with particular emphasis on history, politics, economics, anthropology and literature. The geographical area covered includes all the countries and territories of Central and South America as well as the islands of the Caribbean (including the English-, Dutch- and French-speaking communities), the islands of the South Atlantic (the Falklands/Malvinas and South Georgia), the Galapagos Islands and the Antarctic territories administered by Chile and Argentina.
- ★ United States Studies collection (46,024 volumes), Senate House Library is one of the largest general collections on the United States in the United Kingdom. It provides interdisciplinary coverage of the history, past and present institutions and culture of the United States. Its main strengths lie in history and literature, but it is also rich in works on fine art, architecture, economics, film, politics, religion, Native American and African American studies and it has small sections on the history of science and medicine, law and education. Reference works and an extensive collection of American periodicals are also available.
- ★ Canadian and Caribbean Studies collections, Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library, include material relating to history

Fellowships

and the broader social sciences, including constitutional, political, demographic, social and economic development. Canadian materials account for approximately 18,000 volumes in the collection, and include strong holdings in official publications. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies is a selective depository library for Canadian government information. There is also strong coverage of Commonwealth Caribbean countries, where holdings include the West India Committee Library and archival collections (9,000 volumes). The Library possesses an exceptional collection on the plantation period as well as later political, social and economic development. The Library also holds material relating to regional bodies Caricom and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

- ★ History of North and South America, Institute of Historical Research Library, holds over 20,000 volumes, predominantly of printed sources, bibliographies and guides to archives, but including some periodicals. The history of all parts of the area is covered from the period of European colonisation to the twentieth century, although the chief strength of the collections lies in the period up to the mid-nineteenth century. The collection of sources for the colonial history of North America is one of the finest in the UK, and the collections covering the US Civil War are also especially noteworthy. The Latin American collection is strongest for the colonial history of New Spain, and the history of independent Mexico is also very well covered. There are also important holdings for modern US diplomatic history.

The Library Services as a whole are currently developing their holdings of electronic resources. These include journals such as *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Central America Report*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Latin American Perspectives* and the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, to name a few.

Holdings of all these libraries are available to view via the ULRIS library catalogue. This is accessible from anywhere with an Internet connection and includes links to electronic resources: www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/search



Fellowships

There are a number of different categories of fellowship affiliation with the Institute for the Study of the Americas:

Associate Fellowships

Associate Fellows are academics and researchers based in London who work on an area of relevance to the Institute. Fellows participate actively in the Institute's seminar programme by convening and proposing events, assessing publication proposals, and teaching on the Institute's postgraduate programmes. Associate Fellow meetings are held three times a year – once each for Latin Americanists (November) and United States specialists (March) and once as a whole, including Canadianists and Caribbeanists, in June. Associate Fellowships are by invitation only, as determined by the Director, and are offered on an annual basis.

Visiting Research Fellowships

Visiting Research Fellows are visitors to the Institute who spend a significant period of time at the Institute (usually between four weeks and six months) undertaking their own research. Visiting Research Fellows are provided with shared office space with

access to computing and printing facilities and a library card. In some cases Visiting Research Fellows are required to pay a bench fee.

Visiting Research Fellows are expected to make a contribution to the Institute's programme during their stay. Fellows are usually postdoctoral, though applications from non-academic researchers in a relevant field will be considered. Applications should consist of a letter describing the proposed duration and timing of stay, as well as a research proposal and *curriculum vitae*. Applications can be made at any time and will be considered by the Institute's Academic Staff Committee, which meets in September, November, January, March and June.

Named Fellowships

The School of Advanced Study offers two Visiting Professorial Fellowships (the S T Lee Professorial Fellowship and the School of Advanced Study Fellowship) for distinguished senior scholars to spend up to six months in one of the Institutes associated with the School. The Fellowships provide funding for travel, accommodation and research. Applications can be made to the School in January each year.

John Adams Fellowships are unfunded fellowships specific to the Institute for work on an area relating to the United States. John Adams Fellows are expected to stay at the Institute for a minimum of three months up to one year. Applications can be made at any time and will be considered by the Institute's Academic Staff Committee.

The Robin Humphreys Fellow is a distinguished associate of the Institute, usually with a diplomatic background in a country or countries of Latin America. Appointments are by invitation only and are ongoing.

Honorary Research Fellows

Honorary Research Fellows are emeritus professors with a strong association with the Institute, usually as a former director of either the Institute of Latin American Studies or the Institute of United States Studies. Appointments are by invitation only and are ongoing.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Postdoctoral Research Fellows are employed as staff members of the Institute to undertake research work in an area related to the interests of the Institute. Research Fellows participate fully in the academic life of the Institute by attending and presenting seminars, coordinating seminar series or conferences, attending committee meetings, and undertaking some teaching on existing courses in association with Institute teachers. Research Fellows are appointed by means of a call for applications.

Governance

As a member-Institute of the School of Advanced Study, the Institute for the Study of the Americas is governed by a Scheme in accordance with the Constitution of the School. The Scheme provides for the establishment of an Advisory Council of the Institute, which shall advise the Director on the promotion of the objectives of the Institute, within the University, nationally and internationally; and on plans for the future development of the Institute.

The Institute is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Director and Administrative Manager in consultation with the Academic Staff Committee.

Website

Newsletter and Website

Full details of the Institute’s range and breadth of activities can be found at www.americas.sas.ac.uk. Browsers may search for particular people, courses or events; view publications by discipline or country of interest, request further details via an online form or subscribe via the website to the Institute’s e-mailing list for regular updates.

The newsletter *americas plural*, which is published online three times a year, keeps subscribers and associates up to date with Institute activities. It profiles staff research, student fieldwork experience, and career destinations of graduates; lists forthcoming events and publications and displays images from the Americas.

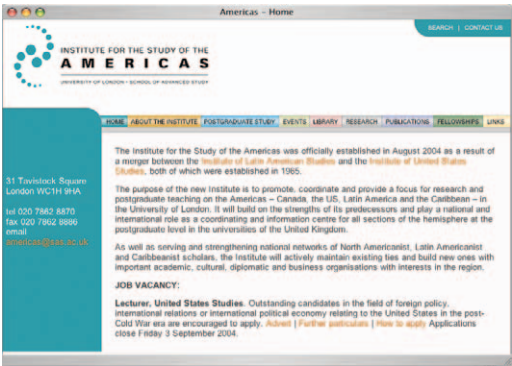


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