In the first decade of the 21st century, income inequality has gone down in a substantial number of Latin American countries. This is the first time that inequality has declined on such a broad scale since we have had reasonably reliable data on income distribution. Beginning in the 1990s educational reforms have expanded the percentage of the population with secondary and tertiary education. The governments of the left that came to power after 2000 implemented a number of other reforms to improve life chances for the underprivileged, such as increases in the minimum wage, social assistance programs, and health care coverage. Are these trends likely to continue, or are they conjunctural and easily subject to reversal once economic growth rates decline? Are underprivileged groups becoming empowered to defend these changes as improvements in social rights? Are more privileged groups accepting these changes as necessary for further development? Are governments pursuing economic strategies aimed at upgrading the productive potential of their societies? Can we see corresponding changes in social consciousness and popular culture? How have technological changes and increased access to technology, e.g. the internet and digital media, challenged established media hierarchies? Are new circuits and pathways for cultural expression emerging from the political mobilization of once-marginalized groups? How do literature, the arts, and historiography adapt to new realities by transforming historical representations? Our Congress will provide the opportunity to engage in extensive interdisciplinary discussions of this conjuncture in its historical, economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions.
You are invited to submit a paper or panel proposal addressing either the Congress theme or any topics related to the program tracks. LASA also invites requests for travel grants from proposers residing in Latin America or the Caribbean as well as from students. Visit the LASA website for eligibility criteria. All proposals for papers, panels, and travel grants must be submitted electronically to the LASA Secretariat by September 1, 2012.

The deadline to submit proposals is September 1, 2012.

Proposal forms and instructions will be available on the LASA website: http://lasa.international.pitt.edu. No submissions by regular mail will be accepted. The Secretariat will send confirmation of the receipt of the proposal via e-mail.

All participants will be required to pre-register for the Congress.

**PROGRAM TRACKS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Select the most appropriate track for your proposal from the following list and enter it in the designated place on the form. Names of Program Committee members are provided for information only. Direct your correspondence to the LASA Secretariat ONLY.

**Afro-Latin/Indigenous Peoples**
Joanne Rappaport, Georgetown University

**Agrarian and Rural Life**
Wendy Wolford, Cornell University
Leoniilde Servolo de Medeiros, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Biodiversity, Natural Resources and Environment**
Mary Finley-Brook, University of Richmond

**Children, Youth and Cultures**
Gonzalo Saravi, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social

**Cities, Planning and Social Services**
Ben Goldfrank, Seton Hall University
Egon Montecinos, Universidad de Los Lagos

**Citizenship, Rights and Justice**
Enrique Peruzzotti, Universidad Torcuato di Tella
Menke Blofield, University of Miami

**Civil Society and Social Movements**
Aldo Panfichi, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

**Culture, Power and Political Subjectivities**
Mirta Antonelli, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba
Ana Wortman, Universidad de Buenos Aires

**Defense, Violence and (In)security**
Anthony Pereira, King's College London
Leigh Payne, University of Oxford

**Democratization**
Juan Pablo Luna, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Economics and Development**
Patrice Franko, Colby College
Augusto de la Torre, World Bank

**Education, Pedagogy and Educational Policies**
Elias Garcia Rosas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México

**Film Studies**
Ana Serra, American University

**Gender Studies**
Maria Isabel Belausteguigoiorta Rius, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

**Health, Medicine and Body Politics**
Marcos Gueto, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia

**History and Historiographies/Historical Processes**
Elias Palti, Universidad de Buenos Aires

**Human Rights and Memories**
Katherine Hite, Vassar College

**International Relations**
Maxwell Cameron, University of British Columbia
William Stanley, University of New Mexico

**Labor Studies and Class Relations**
Joel Stilleman, Grand Valley State University

**Latino(as) in the United States and Canada**
Ben Sifuentes, Rutgers University

**Law, Jurisprudence and Society**
Catalina Smulovitz, Universidad Torcuato di Tella

**Literary Studies: Colonial and 19th Century**
Santa Arias, University of Kansas
Mariselle Meléndez, University of Illinois

**Literary Studies: Contemporary Approaches**
Carmen Millán, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Eyda Merediz, University of Maryland

**Mass Media and Popular Culture**
Silvia Ares de Kurlat, Independent Scholar

**Migration and Latin American Diasporas**
Maria Amelia Viteri, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Ecuador

**Performance, Art and Architecture: Critical and Historical Perspectives**
Lillian Marzor, University of Miami

**Political Institutions and Processes**
Manuel Alcántara, Universidad de Salamanca
Jorge Lanzaro, Universidad de la República

**Politics and Public Policy**
Ken Shadlen, London School of Economics and Political Science
Andrew Schrank, University of New Mexico

**Religion and Spirituality**
Matt Samson, Davidson College

**Sexualities and LGBT Studies**
Guillermo de los Reyes, University of Houston

**States, Markets and Political Economy**
Marcus Kurtz, Ohio State University
Sarah Brooks, Ohio State University

**Transnationalism and Globalization**
Margaret Keck, Johns Hopkins University