

HARTZMAN AWARD HIGHLIGHT

MARINO MIRANDA NORIEGA
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Latin American
Studies Association
(LASA) Conference

Vancouver, Canada
May 24-27, 2023



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My experience at the 2023 Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) allowed me to engage in a dialogue with specialists from different disciplines that study Latin America. LASA was a very enriching space, as I could, for the first time, talk about a couple of research projects with specialists in the region, whose feedback made me address some issues I hadn't thought about before as I rarely can present in spaces with knowledge and sensibilities to the realities of Latin America. This fact is especially true when discussing matters of racialization in the region, which was the topic of the panel where I presented. It was a panel with six participants whose research projects aimed at probing the preconceived notions of race in Latin America and laying out new sources and problems that can shed light on a local and regionally grounded construction of race.

In my presentation, I talked about why the ideology of race mixture was fundamentally promoted by educational institutions, which pointed to an understanding of race centered on the cultural and symbolical elements rather than a purely biological discourse. I received valuable feedback, specifically about the Mexican Indianist Society, one of the first organizations that promoted education as the main solution for the so-called "indigenous problem." I have been looking at this topic. It can be beneficial to continue to develop the research I presented at LASA and hopefully turn it into an academic article.

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Finally, attending such a large conference was also an educational experience. It allowed me to understand the dynamics and purpose of large academic conferences. This experience will enable me to prepare and plan my future academic conferences to support my academic career better.