



Photo by Jim Block.

CLAS has built a community that connects Latin America and UC Berkeley. From bringing students into the classroom with innovative thinkers to showcasing the cultural treasures of the region, here are several highlights of the Center's impact and the spirit of CLAS.

## Special Seminars

CLAS hosts some of the region's preeminent academics, artists, and leaders in residence at UC Berkeley, inviting them to teach master classes for graduate and undergraduate students. For many students, the Special Seminars Series at CLAS offers a unique opportunity to engage with world-renowned figures from Latin America.

In 2000, we hosted **Ruth Cardoso**, a noted anthropologist who was the First Lady of Brazil at the time. Several well-known Mexican scholars have also taught for CLAS, including **Lorenzo Meyer**, **Sergio Aguayo**, and **Denise Dresser**. Most recently, in March 2020, CLAS offered a virtual course with **Javier Couso**,

Above: Sergio Fajardo, 2018.  
Left: Denise Dresser, 2017.

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Photo by Dionićia Ramos.

Professor of Law at the Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, and Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

CLAS has hosted political leaders the likes of **Ricardo Lagos**, President of Chile (2000-2006); **Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas**, Mayor of Mexico City (1997-99); **Michelle Bachelet**, President of Chile (2006-2010 and 2014-2018); **Juan Gabriel Valdés**, Chile's Ambassador to the United States (2014-2018); and **Sergio Fajardo**, Colombian presidential candidate (2018).

We have welcomed **Daniel Coronell**, Colombian journalist and President of News for Univision in the United States, who spent two years in residence and teaching at CLAS; Mexican journalist **Alma Guillermprieto**; and Chilean guitarist and composer **Horacio Salinas**, musical director of Inti-Illimani.

As Berkeley students graduate — whether with doctoral, masters, or undergraduate degrees — and start their careers, we can see the impact of CLAS Special Seminars spread around the world.

Above: Ricardo Lagos (center) on the Berkeley campus, 2006.  
Right: Michelle Bachelet (center), 2019.



Photo by Jim Block.





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Photo by Perla Nation.

## Cultural Connections

The arts — painting, sculpture, literature, film, music, and more — have been at the core of CLAS programming since the beginning.

We welcomed the iconic Chilean musical group **Inti-Illimani** as part of Cal Performances in Zellerbach Hall in 2007 and the group's musical director, singer and guitarist **Horacio Salinas**, in 2011.

In 2007, CLAS hosted an exhibit of brilliant and searing paintings and drawings from the Abu Ghraib works by Colombian artist **Fernando Botero**. Professor of English at UC Berkeley and Poet Laureate of the United States **Robert Hass** held a conversation with Botero to open the exhibit. In 2009, Chancellor Birgeneau presented Botero with the Chancellor's Citation in recognition of his donation of 60 Abu Ghraib works to UC Berkeley as a result of the CLAS exhibit. In 2012, CLAS organized a showing of the Abu Ghraib collection at the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos (Museum of Memory and Human Rights) in Santiago, Chile.

In 2015, CLAS hosted "Unspoken Words/Steps on Sand," an exhibit of murals by Central American children

Above: Horacio Salinas plays his guitar at Berkeley, 2011.  
Left: A visitor in the "MONTARlaBestia" exhibit at CLAS, 2017.



Photo by Miguel Oropeza Caballero.

in U.S. detention camps. The moving works portray their vision of the perilous journey to the U.S.–Mexico border and were painted under the supervision of Argentine artist **Claudia Bernardi**.

In 2016, CLAS partnered with the Mexican Museum of San Francisco to host flautist **Elena Duran**. CLAS and the Mexican Museum also hosted a talk by Mexican stateswoman **Guadalupe Rivera y Marín** about her father, Diego Rivera. The value of the 2015 event is reflected in the face of the young woman speaking with Rivera y Marín.

In 2017, CLAS hosted an exhibition by the **Colectivo de Artistas Contra la Discriminación** (Artists Collective Against Discrimination). "MONTARlaBestia" (Riding the Beast) showcased art and poetry about "La Bestia," the train that carries Central American migrants on a hazardous journey across Mexico towards the United States.

Above: The Tree of Life from "Unspoken Words/Steps on Sand," 2015.  
Right: Guadalupe Rivera y Marín after her talk, 2016.



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## In Conversation With Directors and Actors

CLAS frequently screens award-winning films and hosts directors and actors to discuss their recent work. Here are a few highlights.

A screening of “A Better Life” (2011) featured director **Chris Weitz** and Oscar-nominated actor **Demián Bichir**. In 2012, director **David Turnley** presented “Shenandoah” (2012), his documentary about disturbing tensions targeting Mexican migrants in a Pennsylvania coal town ripped apart during hard times.

Director **Diego Luna** screened his film “Cesar Chavez” with CLAS in 2014. At the event, he discussed the film with **Arturo Rodriguez**, president of the United Farm Workers union; **Maria Echaveste**, a Senior Scholar at CLAS; and **Harley Shaiken**. United Farm Workers co-founder **Dolores Huerta** was a special guest at the screening. After a visit by Luna to CLAS several years earlier, Shaiken mentioned a

Above, from left: Harley Shaiken, Diego Luna, Arturo Rodriguez, and Maria Echaveste discuss Luna’s “Cesar Chavez.”  
Left: Dolores Huerta with students at the “Cesar Chavez” screening.



Photo by Ana De Carolis.

talk Chavez had given at UC Berkeley, and the Bancroft Library provided a recording to the director.

**Walter Salles** received a standing ovation at a CLAS event in 2005 after discussing the production process for his movie “The Motorcycle Diaries” (2004). In 2016, we hosted a screening of “Aquarius” (2016) and a conversation with its star, **Sônia Braga**. A visit from director **Petra Costa** to screen her film “Democracia em Vertigem” (The Edge of Democracy, 2019) was followed by a public conversation with Oscar-winning filmmaker **Charles Ferguson**. CLAS has hosted advanced screenings with the director for all of Ferguson’s films, including the Oscar-winning “Inside Job” (2010).

A proud moment at CLAS was working with Mexican director **Roberto Hernández** and producer **Layda Negrete** on “Presunto Culpable” (Presumed Guilty, 2011). Among other awards, the film won the 2011 Emmy for Outstanding Investigative Journalism, and CLAS Chair Harley Shaiken received an Emmy as an executive producer of the film.

Latin America has a vibrant film tradition, and CLAS looks forward to future Cine Latino programs.

Above: Charles Ferguson listens to Petra Costa, 2019.  
Right: Demián Bichir with Berkeley students, 2013.



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