

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful break during the summer months.

CLAS took rest seriously this summer, but we were also busy. As part of the Center's ongoing focus on Indigenous knowledges, in June and July we supported an inspiring initiative with the Mayan Mam community in Oakland. After months of meetings last year, that community, Laney College's Latinx Cultural Center, and CLAS decided on what we informally called a "Mam Language and Culture Pilot Program" for summer 2023: a free workshop open to campus and community members on Mam language, Mayan mathematics, and weaving led by members of the Oakland-based Mam group.

We are excited about the lineup of public programs, community collaborations, research working groups, and classes the Center will be hosting this year. CLAS continues its support of two fantastic graduate student working groups on Latin American and Caribbean Socionatures and Language Revitalization. Please reach out to them if you want to become involved in their activities. With support from our National Resource Center grant, we continue offering Nahuatl classes through the Department of Spanish & Portuguese. There are still some spots open, but they are going quickly! Our Visiting Writer in Residence this year is Daniela Rossell, a trailblazing artist and writer from Mexico, who will be leading a 1-unit month-long workshop titled "An Experimental Writing Workshop or: How to Say Yes." The workshop is open to all Berkeley students and will be held Fridays starting 10/27. Don't miss this opportunity! Sign up!

CLAS is partnering with Berkeley's Center for New Media for lectures on New Media in Latin America by Martina Broner (Fall 2023) and Paloma Duong (Spring 2024). We are thrilled to be collaborating with Kadist, a San Francisco non-profit contemporary art organization whose programs focus on the intersection of politics and aesthetics. That collaboration begins with Dominican curator Yina Jimenez Suriel's exhibition *de montañas submarinas el fuego hace montañas* (from underwater mountains fire makes islands)], on view in Kadist from October 12, 2023 until February 18, 2024. In addition to supporting the exhibition's accompanying publication, CLAS will be hosting two conversations with Jimenez Suriel on the exhibition's themes: emancipation, perceptual systems beyond the human, and the creation of new imaginaries outside/beyond Western structures. One of the presentations will be part of the ongoing "New Vocabularies/New Grammars" series at the Center, where we have been in conversation with disciplinary and

genre pushing intellectuals over the past two years. This year, Peruvian anthropologist Marisol de la Cadena, Mapuche Weichafe Moira Millán, and social theorist Maylei Blackwell will also be guests in the series. CLAS will also present a photo exhibition and a series of conversations on the legacies of photographic archives documenting Peru's internal armed conflict in the late 20th century.

Democracy as a political structure is in shambles in Latin America and worldwide. Surprising results in primary elections these past few weeks in Argentina and Ecuador, the popular uprisings in Peru this year, the political vacuum in Haiti's government, the (failed) re-writing of the Chilean Constitution by a truly plural Constituent Assembly are some of the signs of these turbulent times. CLAS will host conversations with scholars, activists and public intellectuals throughout the year to think about "Whose Democracy? Political Horizons in Latin America Today." Stay tuned for information on these events coming your way very soon!

Since its founding in 1956, the Center for Latin American Studies has served as a bridge between the Bay Area and Latin America. In the past year, CLAS has undertaken a number of initiatives reorienting its work to emphasize the plurality and the complex geopolitics of what constitutes "Latin America." Does it include territories subjected to colonization by England, the Netherlands, and France as well as Spain and Portugal? And communities who now live in the US but still have ties to Latin America or who, like Latinx Indigenous people, live border identities, are they Latin American?

In the past, the Caribbean has been treated as a liminal geography in studies of Latin America. This fall, the Center for Latin American Studies will become the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS). With this change in name, the Center commits to providing intellectual space to cultures, histories, politics, and languages of the entire region.

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The CLACS Team

Berkeley Center for Latin American
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