It’s hard to believe that another year filled with exciting programming has come to an end! Whether brilliant seminars led by eminent political scientists and historians of Latin America or a fascinating lecture given by one of Latin America’s foremost novelists, PLAS has sought to share Latin America’s rich cultural and intellectual traditions, and the best new scholarship on Latin America, with the Hopkins community. PLAS has supported graduate and undergraduate research trips to Mexico, Uruguay, Colombia, Guyana and elsewhere. PLAS’s rapidly rising number of majors and minors have enhanced and rejuvenated the program immeasurably, which was visible in the incredible poster session that accompanied the exciting first annual symposium on Brazil, held in November. We encourage you to become even more involved with PLAS in the coming years!

Inaugural Symposium on Brazil at JHU

In November 2015, the Johns Hopkins community gathered to discuss Brazil in a two day conference, “Brazil in Focus: Brazilians, Culture & Politics.” The conference was the first major event hosted by the Portuguese Language Program and also Hopkins’ initial symposium centered on Brazil.

Counselor Franklin Netto of the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C. opened the event by stressing the important relationship between Brazil and the United States. Paulo Sotero, the director of the Brazil Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center, then delivered the keynote lecture of day one. Mr. Sotero discussed the salient challenges faced by Brazil in 2015, especially the nation’s economic downturn and the current corruption scandal. Over a lunch of delicious Brazilian fare, students from the Portuguese Language and Brazilian studies programs presented posters focusing on Brazilian culture and society. Their topics ranged from futebol to poverty in the favelas to the global reach of the nation’s culture. The highlight of the afternoon’s activities was the roundtable panel featuring Hopkins’ professors Dr. Margaret Keck, Dr. Franklin Knight and Dr. Sara Castro Klaren, as well as director Sotero. The panel considered Brazil’s rural-urban divide, the struggle over socio-economic inequality, and industrial development.

continued on p. 4
The year 2016 marks the four hundredth anniversary of Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala’s First New Chronicle and Good Government, an 1100-page letter addressed to King Philip III from Spain in which Guaman Poma poignantly criticizes the abuses committed by the Spanish upon the indigenous peoples of the Andes in the seventeenth century. Professor Castro-Klarén’s initiative to organize a symposium at Johns Hopkins University to pay homage to the Peruvian chronicler is therefore most welcome. Another giant of Andean Studies, Professor R. Tom Zuidema, was invited by Castro-Klarén to deliver the keynote address of the symposium. Unfortunately, Zuidema’s unexpected death prevented him from being with us in person at the symposium, though I have no doubts that he was present in spirit. The fact that the symposium was dedicated to R. Tom Zuidema shows how it ended up honoring and paying homage to the indigenous chronicler and Dutch scholar. The high academic and intellectual level of the symposium, which was held on April 8th and April 9th, can be appreciated in the papers read by the participants invited by Professor Castro-Klarén: Gary Urton (Harvard University), Catherine Allen (The George Washington University), Martin Carrión (University of the Sciences), Lisa De Leonardis (Johns Hopkins University), Christian Fernández (Louisiana State University), Sharonah Fredrick (Arizona State University), Regina Harrison (University of Maryland), James Maffie (University of Maryland), Julio Ortega (Brown University) and Rocío Quispe-Agnoli (Michigan State University). Professors Thomas Ward (Loyola University Maryland), María Portuondo (Johns Hopkins University), Eyda Merediz (University of Maryland) and Verónica Salles-Reese (Georgetown University) were also present as moderators.

Some unforgettable moments of the symposium were Professor Catherine Allen’s reading of Zuidema’s unfinished paper as Gary Urton’s reminiscing of his years as a student of Zuidema’s and detailed explanation of his mentor’s structuralist methodology. It was also paradoxical that it was Urton himself that ended up delivering the keynote address of the symposium, something which, in Urton’s words, would have made Tom laugh. Two other important events that were a part of the symposium were a Book Exhibit on Guaman Poma (April 8th - April 15th, Macksey Room, The Brody Learning Commons), carefully curated by Paul Espinosa from the Peabody Library at Johns Hopkins University, and an Exhibit of Guaman Poma’s drawings (April 8th - April 15th, the Gallery at The Brody Learning Commons), which was
possible thanks to the Peruvian Embassy of Washington, D.C. The Book Exhibit allowed the participants and the public to see, feel and even touch some rare books and manuscripts belonging to Guaman Poma’s time, some of which might even have been used by Guaman Poma himself. Paul Espinosa’s remarks and Professor Regina Harrison’s observations on the Book Exhibit certainly engaged the audience by giving a cultural and historical background of the selected works. The Exhibit of Guaman Poma’s drawings, on the other hand, also gave the participants and the audience the chance to see high-quality big reproductions of many of Guaman Poma’s drawings.

I would like to thank Professor Castro-Klarén for organizing the symposium and The Program in Latin American Studies, The Charles Singleton Center, the Dept. of German and Romance Languages and Literatures, International Studies and the Peruvian Embassy in Washington, D.C. for sponsoring and making this event possible. Last, but not least, I would also like to thank all the people from Johns Hopkins University who helped to coordinate and organize the different aspects of the symposium including Professor Flavia de Azeredo Cerqueira, Interim Director of PLAS, Paul Espinosa, Curator of Book Exhibit, Lauren Judy, Craig Jefferson, Ian Rogers and Guillermo García Montufar. It was thanks to Professor Castro-Klarén and to all the institutions and people mentioned above that the symposium became a reality and an unforgettable and successful event. May we have many other symposia like this one in the years to come.

Inaugural Symposium on Brazil at JHU (continued from p.1)

The second day of the symposium highlighted relevant components of Brazilian culture, ranging from music to race relations and the historical origins of modern society. Georgetown University’s Dr. Bryan McCann discussed the role of samba and choro in Brazil, including the politics involved in financing the world famous Rio Carnival. Dr. McCann’s lecture was wonderfully illustrated by the band DC Choro who used traditional instruments. DC Choro played throughout lunch and gave a delightful music workshop on the cultural history of choro in Brazil. Anne Gillman, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at Johns Hopkins, continued the discussion of Carnival and highlighted the role of Brazilian based companies, particularly Petrobras, in the production of the event. Dr. Regina Igel, from the University of Maryland, College Park, brilliantly discussed the ethnic diversity of Brazilian society and its origins. Amilcar Araujo Pereira, representing Columbia University, brought the conference to a close with an enlightening discussion of the controversial topic of race relations in Brazil.

The engaging and insightful symposium was successful thanks to the efforts of the organizer, Dr. Flavia Azeredo Cerqueira.
Southern Capitalisms Graduate Conference

PLAS co-sponsored the Southern Capitalisms Graduate Student Conference on March 4-5. Thanks to PLAS's contributions, fifteen of the twenty-five participants received travel grants, enabling them to come from as far away as California. The conference brought together scholars from a wide range of geographic, temporal, and thematic fields to question and move beyond long-held scholarly assumptions about economic development and capital accumulation in what is broadly conceived as the “south”. The eight panels included discussions of migrant entrepreneurship, coercive labor regimes, land expropriation, and the politics of food production. Professor Julia Ott (History, The New School for Social Research) delivered the keynote address on the history of finance and taxation.

Two PhD students from the History Department, Paige Glotzer and Jessica Levy organized the event. Additional funding was generously provided by the Institute for Applied Economics, Global Health, and the Study of Business Enterprise; the Racism, Immigration and Citizenship Program; the Center for Africana Studies; the Office of the Vice-Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences; the Institute for International and Comparative Studies; the Arrighi Center for Global Studies; the Department of History; and the Department of Political Science.
Spring 2016 Seminars and Symposia

“Forgotten Rebels of Saint Domingue and Their Subsequent Lives as Black Auxiliaries of Carlos IV”
Professor Jane G. Landers (Vanderbilt University)
February 12, 2016

“Peru, the United States and the Trans-Pacific Trade Pact: Opportunities and Challenges”
The Honorable Luis Miguel Castilla, Ambassador of Peru to the United States
February 16, 2016

“A New Atlantic History: Connecting Colonial Latin America and Medieval Europe”
Professor Amy Remensnyder (Brown University)
February 23, 2016

The Southern Capitalisms Graduate Conference
March 4 & 5, 2016

Brazilian Film Week: Human Rights in the Southern Hemisphere
April 4, 6 & 8, 2016

“The Impact of Guaman Poma on Contemporary Social Sciences and the Humanities”
Keynote speaker: Gary Urton (Harvard University)
April 8 & 9, 2016

“Over the Rainbow”: Representation of LGBTQ Latinx in Film
A screening of the Brazilian coming-of-age The Way He Looks followed by a discussion led by Portuguese Director Flavia Azeredo Cerqueira.
April 21, 2016

Liberation not Deportation: Detention, Immigration, and Trans Rights
Jennicet Gutiérrez, FAMILIA: TQLM (Trans Queer Liberation Movement)
April 27, 2016

The Portuguese Program and PLAS: The End of Year Reception
Lunch, music and a Capoeira performance celebrating the wonderful academic year we had together.
April 27, 2016
Brazilian Film Week: Cinema and Human Rights in the Southern Hemisphere

By Clarissa Trabanino,
GRLL & PLAS

Each semester, the Brazilian Film Week brings a variety of Brazilian films to Johns Hopkins. The Spring 2016 semester brought the acclaimed Exhibition Cinema and Human Rights in the Southern Hemisphere which has traveled to many countries. This exhibition was made possible by the support of the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, DC and The Program in Latin American Studies.

This exhibition included films and documentaries such as Que Bom te Ver Viva, a film about police torture during the military dictatorship in Brazil by Lúcia Murat (Brasil, 1989, 95'); Sophia deals with the struggles of a mother of a hearing-impaired child by Kennel Rógis (Brasil, 2013, 15'); Pelas Janelas it is a film within a film as it was videotaped by high school students. It reflects the tenets of freedom and equality together with the struggle for rights amount young adults, by Carol Perdigão, Guilherme Farkas, Sofia Maldonado and Will Domingos (Brasil, 2014, 35'). Finally, A vizinhança do Tigre is a film about young boys from a poor neighborhood walking the lines between work and entertainment and crime and hope, by Affonso Uchoa (Brasil, 2014, 95').

Brazilian film week at Hopkins, that took place the week of April 4-8, was a series of days highlighting cinema and human rights in the Southern Hemisphere. Though the university in itself is a center of culture and international awareness, it is very easy to get lost amongst the “biggest” issues portrayed by the media and forget that there exist issues on the microscopic level which amount to macroscopic phenomena. Brazilian Film Week demonstrated just that; depicting the issues and concerns regarding human rights that occur in everyday Brazilian life through the art of cinematography. The films touched an array of subjects from handicap awareness, social disparity, and internal immigration. The films thoroughly conveyed their messages in a fashion which allowed the students viewing them to fully engage culturally in the foreign world discussed within their textbooks. The event was also an interactive way for students to participate in debates and discussions about the problems and conflicts connected to human rights, and with brigadeiros included!!

Amy Remensnyder: A New Atlantic History

By Ian Rogers
(GRLL)

The Johns Hopkins University’s PLAS welcomed Amy G. Remensnyder, professor of History at Brown University, to deliver her lecture entitled, “A New Atlantic History: Connecting Colonial Latin American and Medieval Europe”, followed by a Q&A session, as part of its 2015-2016 Colloquium Series. In her lecture, which was co-sponsored by the departments of History of Art and German & Romance Languages & Literatures, Professor Remensnyder presented portions of her latest research that explores the ways in which studying the connections between Medieval Europe and Colonial Latin America can offer new, critical perspectives to scholars working in both fields. In tracing possible pathways toward interdisciplinary approaches to studying the Iberia and its Atlantic Empires, Professor Remensnyder’s lecture can be situated within a wider discourse on methodology in academia that stresses the importance of fostering scholarly dialogue both within and across disciplinary boundaries. The diversity of students and faculty in attendance, who represented several of the departments and programs of study from the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, further confirmed the pertinence of this topic to scholarship at Johns Hopkins and interdisciplinary research’s ability to engage a variety of scholarly interlocutors in a meaningful way.
Dr. Luis Miguel Castilla, the Peruvian ambassador to the United States and a Hopkins alumnus, spoke to an audience in the Sherwood Room of Levering Hall on February 16. Dr. Castilla had previously served as Peru’s Minister of Economy and Finance during the administration of President Ollanta Humala, a leftist on the Peruvian political spectrum. So it may surprise some that Dr. Castilla has championed liberalizing market reforms in his country. During his tenure as minister, he sought to make Peru more attractive to foreign investment, and make sure the government was open to outside scrutiny, a key condition for investor confidence.

After describing to the audience some of his work in Peru, Dr. Castilla opened the floor to questions. One student challenged Castilla on the ambassador’s support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which was only signed some days before Castilla’s visit. Castilla negotiated Peru’s entry into the TPP while he was a minister. The TPP has generated controversy, especially among the political left, for the secrecy involved in its creation and its potential effects on environmental and labor regulations. Castilla defended the TPP, saying that “We’re a hub country with the busiest port and the busiest airports in South America, south of Panama. And as we try to integrate ourselves to Asia, despite all of its trouble it’s going to be … a good thing.”

Castilla was due to speak later that day to an assembly of the Economics department. “I used to listen. It’s going to be interesting to see my professors as the audience,” Castilla said.

The Portuguese Program and PLAS: Pizza Lunch

The pizza lunch is an event that takes place every semester and brings together in an informal way students, faculty and guests interested in Portuguese and in Latin American studies.

I attended the Portuguese Pizza Lunch on March 28th and it was a great event! I love when Dr. Azeredo puts on events for her students because it’s an easy way to meet people who also want to practice their Portuguese skills. Going to the event gave me a chance to socialize with people from the other Portuguese classes and find out why they wanted to learn the language. Personally, I was able to catch up with friends I had made when I went on the Intersession trip to Rio de Janeiro, who I usually do not see as frequently now that we are back at school. Under Dr. Azeredo’s leadership, the Portuguese Program at Hopkins has been extremely effective in helping me find a community of people who all love Brazil as much as I do! I hope that next semester there will be even more events like the Pizza Lunch and the movie series! And for those who haven’t been to an event hosted by the Portuguese Program, the brigadeiros alone are enough of a reason to come!
PLAS Funding Opportunities

Summer and Intersession Travel Grants for Research in Latin America

PLAS offers small grants to support summer research and travel in Latin America and the Caribbean. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis, and the competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students of the Johns Hopkins University.

PLAS supports projects from all disciplines. The primary purpose of the travel grant scheme is to enable students to pursue research on a topic of consuming interest to them. Applications are judged on the basis of the quality of the proposal submitted, the student’s academic standing, and the relationship of the proposed travel and summer research to the student’s long-term academic and professional goals.

Grants generally range from $750 to $1,500 and are intended to help offset the costs of airfare, lodging, and minimal research expenses. It is expected that successful applicants will spend at least three weeks in the region. In addition to an expense report, upon their return from Latin America, grantees are required to submit a report detailing their research accomplishments under the terms of the grant.

For more information on eligibility requirements, application procedures and deadlines, please visit our undergraduate and graduate funding opportunity webpage.

Graduate Teaching Fellowship

Each year, PLAS grants a fellowship which provides support for an advanced graduate student to teach one undergraduate course (300- or 400-level) relevant to Latin American Studies, broadly conceived. The course builds on the graduate student’s own research interests and expertise, and is developed under the guidance of the student’s academic advisor.

Anthropology graduate student Amy Krauss was the winner of this year’s Graduate Teaching Fellowship. She taught her course Law and Political Imagination in Latin America in Spring 2016. The course helped students to develop a critical perspective on law and state-formation through intellectual debates and traditions in Latin America. Drawing from texts in legal theory and philosophy, legal anthropology, and ethnography, the course surveyed different ways law has been imagined in relationship to community, violence, and sovereignty in Latin America.

For more information on eligibility requirements, application procedures and deadlines, please visit our webpage.
Reports from the Field

by Katherine Bonil Gómez

Last summer I had the opportunity to spend two months in Colombia conducting research for my doctoral dissertation. I am currently exploring the political culture of free people of African Descent in eighteenth-century Colombia, paying special attention to the Magdalena River and its port cities. PLAS granted me a research travel grant in order to visit the National General Archive in Bogotá and a local archive in the port city of Mompóx. The visit to Bogotá was most beneficial as I was able to collect the materials required to understand political and economic context of free people of African descent’s actions in this area. However, the visit to Mompóx was, perhaps, the most enriching experience; it was my first approach at researching in local archives and an opportunity to become familiar with the specific circumstances the writing of local history entails. From poorly kept and highly disorganized files, to the administrative and political difficulties to access the archive, the experience taught me about the importance of preserving local archives and the politics of patrimony. This travel in general, was a highly enriching experience not only in terms of the primary sources I gathered or the scholarly contacts I made, but mostly because it allowed me to think of the ways in which historians may contribute to such topics as education, patrimony and local memory.

My dissertation-in-progress focuses on the development of Trinidad and Guyana during the Revolutionary Era. These two territories, despite significant differences, experienced a similar developmental trajectory, making them worthy of comparative examination. Thanks to PLAS I was able to make a two-week research trip to Guyana during Intersession 2016.

The look and feel of Guyana almost resembles what it the late eighteenth and early of the capital’s most prominent constructed in the nineteenth George’s Cathedral, perhaps the town, remains one of the tallest world. ed visits to the Walter Rodney ana, Caribbean Research Library Walter Roth Museum of Anthro-Museum and the St. George’s At the National Archives I found in the early nineteenth century that provide a glimpse into migration in and out of Guyana, which will be useful for a chapter in my dissertation that compares population and migration in Trinidad and Guyana. At the University of Guyana I was able to review a major collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century maps of the Guianas and the Southern Caribbean, which will be important for a chapter comparing the geography of Trinidad and Guyana.

Program in Latin American Studies Newsletter
This past summer, I had the privilege of being able to research two locales of which I have long been fascinated: Mexico City and Los Angeles. As the two capitals of Mexican culture, the focus of my study was on the reproduction of space by the immigrants’ community in the United States that could be found in Mexico City. I traveled throughout Mexico City scouring the scenery for motifs that I hoped I would recognize in the Latino-dominant communities in Los Angeles. I stayed on the historic Paseo de la Reforma, but utilized Mexico City’s extensive metro system to travel to many distant neighborhoods of the city including: the Zócalo, Condesa, Roma, Polanco, and Coyoacán. Along with visual observations of city life, I surveyed many museums including, but not limited to the Frida Kahlo Museum, the historic Chapultepec Castle, and the National Museum of Anthropology. The highlight of my time in Mexico was undoubtedly the trip I made to the ruins of Teotihuacan. After having studied the Teotihuacano civilization the year prior, it was amazing to have theory meet reality in a sense by actually being in a locale that I had studied so intensively. While in Los Angeles, I centered the focus of my study on the Olvera Street Market in the Downtown area and Mariachi Plaza in East LA. Both of these places were clear reproductions of spaces that I had seen in Mexico City. For example, Mariachi Plaza is directly modelled after Mexico City’s Plaza Garibaldi. In the end the grant from PLAS afforded me an unprecedented opportunity to delve into a topic that I had been interested in for some time. I would also like to thank Professor Castro-Klaren for her support of my proposal.
In my doctoral dissertation, I analyze aspects of Mexican contemporary literature depicting phenomena of organized crime. The activity of the cartels directly affects several states of the Republic and, on a larger scale, influences the economy and the politics of the nation. I spent the months of July and August in Mexico City both conducting archival research and interviewing some of the most eminent scholars and intellectuals who have dealt with the matter.

I visited the three main academic institutions of the capital: the UNAM, the Universidad Iberoamericana, and the Colegio de México, along with smaller ones, such as the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo. Given the relevance of the matter under analysis, I decided to enlarge my perspective interviewing scholars of other disciplines. Among the others, the historian Luis Astorga, the political scientist Vidal Romero, and María Celia Toro, professor of international relations, contributed to enrich my analysis with a trans-disciplinary perspective.

My long stay in Mexico City also gave me the possibility to approach some of the most recognized intellectuals of the country, such as Susana Corcuera. Famous for the effective and successful description of the current rural condition, Corcuera offered me a first-hand testimony of how daily life in the state of Jalisco is influenced by the presence of narcos.

Eventually, Mexico City constituted the point of encounter of different realities of the country that are constantly challenged by the presence of organized crime. The possibility of meeting scholars of different disciplines, as well as intellectuals who depict the Mexican condition through literature, granted a well-rounded perspective to the preliminary stage of my doctoral dissertation.

With the Summer Grant received from PLAS, I was able to defray my plane tickets and other transportation expenses to Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, and start my dissertation research. In these countries I did archival research in the cities of Lima, Cusco, Sucre, and Quito. The archives consulted included the Municipal Archive of the city of Lima, the National Library of Peru, the National Archive of Peru, the Regional Archive of Cusco, the National Archives and Library of Bolivia, the Archive of the “Casa de la Libertad” in Sucre, and the Municipal Historical Archive of Quito. These archival visits enabled me to find documents fundamental for my dissertation, which will focus on the dynamics of representation of Spanish-American interest in the decision-making centers of Imperial Spain during the late-colonial period. It also enabled me to meet prestigious colonialist researchers such as Professor José Carlos de la Puente Brunke, Director of the Instituto Riva Aguero for historical research of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP). The experience in these archives also corroborated the importance of approaching archives themselves as historical subjects of study, trying to make sense of the fluctuating scarcity and availability of sources in these different documentary repositories. These months also served as a culturally valuable experience in my training as a Latinamericanist, being able to see first-hand sites of both historical and cultural importance for the Native Peoples of present-day Peru and Bolivia, as well as for the acquisition of a better understanding of the colonial and post-colonial experiences.
Q&A with the PLAS Librarian

Chella Vaidyanathan is the Academic Liaison Librarian for Latin American Studies at the Sheridan Libraries who helps students working on Latin American topics. She answered some questions about how students in PLAS can find resources that they need for research at the library.

What would you recommend to students who are doing research on Latin America so that they can better use library resources?

I would recommend starting with the resources listed on the “Databases by Topic” page (http://databases.library.jhu.edu/databases/subject/latin-american-studies) and the Latin American Studies subject guide (http://guides.library.jhu.edu/latinamericanstudies)

I also suggest searching WorldCat (http://databases.library.jhu.edu/databases/database/JHU02546) to find relevant materials that can be borrowed from other libraries via interlibrary loan or BorrowDirect.

What would be an effective way to locate primary sources?

Both the “Databases by Topic” page and the Latin American Studies subject guide have lists of primary sources. It is always a good idea to check what we have in our Special Collections (http://guides.library.jhu.edu/specialcollections). Another good resource to look for information about special collections materials is Archive Grid (http://databases.library.jhu.edu/databases/database/JHU04380). In some cases, students may also need to check other resources.

Can you tell us how you have helped students doing research on Latin American topics in the past?

Generally, students contact me via e-mail for a research consultation and they provide a brief description of their research topics. Sometimes, they also send me a list of the sources that they have consulted. We agree to meet on a mutually convenient day. As I have their research topics prior to our meeting, I spend an hour or more (depending on the complexity), searching for sources. During this process, I make a note of the keywords and Library of Congress subject headings related to their topics.

When we meet in person, I show them how to begin their search with appropriate keywords. Then, I show them how to locate pertinent Library of Congress subject headings. I also help them refine their research topics. Often students request a follow-up meeting after they have had the chance to examine the sources. In the second consultation appointment, I clarify their doubts, answer any specific questions they have, and help them trace elusive sources.

How can students contact you?

They are welcome to contact me via e-mail – cvaidya1@jhu.edu
President Obama travelled from Raul Castro’s post-socialist Havana to Orestes Macri’s post-something Argentina. Barack went in Che’s opposite direction, from the land Guevara adopted as citizen, and then renounced as such in pursuit of further revolutions, to the nation where Ernesto Guevara Lynch was born and left behind, perhaps to return to Her as Odysseus might to a changed-for-the-better strange Ithaca, like a Rolling Stone. (He reached as far as Bolivia—farther perhaps than ever from his Nation by the shifting rhythms of China vs. USSR geopolitics.)

Obama left Ovama in old Havana in time to skip rock-and-roll and attempt the tango. Back in Cuba, sus Majestades Satánicas brought home their older-than-Fidel Revolution as badass Music. In the starvation enforced upon Cuba by the forces of the now all but defunct militant cultural politics combined with the US Embargo, David Bowie’s Playboy interview answer: “rock stars are fascists. Adolf Hitler was one of the first rock stars,” rings louder than ever as tombstone smarts.

Nowhere is this judgment by the Moses of the Satanic Cool truer than in Cuba, where by conventional wisdom rock-and-roll was all but left stillborn.

Look at some of his films and see how he [Hitler] moved. I think he was quite as good as Jagger. It’s astounding. And boy, when he hit that stage, he worked an audience. Good God! He was no politician. He was a media artist. He used politics and theatrics and created this thing that governed and controlled the show for 12 years […] He staged a country […] People aren’t very bright, you know? They say they want freedom, but when they get the chance, they pass up Nietzsche and choose Hitler because he would march into a room to speak and music and lights would come on at strategic moments. It was rather like a rock’n roll concert.

In Sympathy for the Devil Satan is sung in jest—not at arms length but embraced. In Bowie’s words Jagger escapes Hitler’s parody but only by the laws of cool. Mick survives comparison to fascist Nick only in ultra cool fashion. According to Alan Liu, “cool at once mimics and resists the postindustrial credo of innovation and creative destruction, which holds that the old must perpetually give way to the new. Information […] is no longer used by the cool just to revolutionize human knowledge—it is also used to resist it.”

Through the eyes of our students, I have witnessed how uncool Cuba’s conditions actually are. I do not recommend “creative destruction” ever mentioned while on the island unless to seriously provoke. But, now that I think of it, Raul Castro might have experienced just that uncool cool from Barack Obama, at his Ovama cool best, during the press-conference-within-press-conference interlude into which the staggered President General Castro was lured by the Commander in Chief.

Professor González is Cuban born but no Cuba expert. He is writing a book on seventeenth century Spanish and English drama and the politics of statecraft.
Spring 2016 Classes in PLAS

AS.010.366 – Native American Art
Instructor: Deleonardis, Lisa

AS.010.407 – Ancient Americas Metallurgy
Instructor: Deleonardis, Lisa

AS.100.210 - Freshman Seminar: Real Pirates of the Caribbean
Instructor: Smoak, Katherine L

AS.100.411 - Readings in the History of Public Health in the 20th and 21st Centuries
Instructor: Galambos, Louis P

AS.140.390 - Science and Technology in Latin America
Instructor: Portuondo, María M

AS.210.177 - Portuguese Elements
Instructor: De Azeredo Cerqueira, Flávia

AS.210.392 – Advanced Portuguese: Language and Literature II
Instructor: Rodrigues, Vera L

AS.211.319 – Salsa! The Afro-Antillean Song
Instructor: Ramos, Maria Del Rosario

AS.211.380 – Modern Latin American Culture
Instructor: González, Eduardo, Staff

AS.215.338 - Introducción a la Literatura Argentina
Instructor: Altschul, Nadia

AS.215.345 – Children & Adolescents in Latin America
Instructor: Judy, Lauren Gabrielle

AS.215.476 – El “moro” de al-Andalus al Siglo de Oro y América
Instructor: Altschul, Nadia

AS.215.484 – Orientalismo al Sur
Instructor: Altschul, Nadia

AS.230.150 – Issues in International Development
Instructor: Levien, Michael

AS.230.244 – Race and Ethnicity in American Society
Instructor: Greif, Meredith

AS.230.346 – Economic Sociology of Latin America
Instructor: von der Heydt-Coca, Magda Zonia

AS.361.130 – Introduction to Latin American Studies
Instructor: González, Eduardo, Paquette, Gabe, Procupez, Valeria

AS.361.170 – NI DE AQUI NI DE ALLA: Introduction to Latino Studies
Instructor: Solis, Santiago

AS.361.319 – Law and Political Imagination in Latin America
Instructor: Krauss, Amy Beth
Fall 2016 Classes in PLAS

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<td>Deleonardis, Lisa</td>
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<td>AS.010.430</td>
<td>Trans-Mediterranean Visual Culture and the Spanish Empire</td>
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<td>Invitation to Anthropology</td>
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For a full updated course listing, please visit [http://krieger.jhu.edu/plas/undergraduate/courses/](http://krieger.jhu.edu/plas/undergraduate/courses/)
Contact the Program in Latin American Studies

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