

assembled a group of some of the most insightful and progressive social scientists in Latin America and Latin Americanists in the United States and Europe. *LAP's* long history and abundant production offer people in the English-speaking world access to some of the best analyses of the principal problems in the region. The collective continually focuses our attention on those involved in trying to overcome the systematic crusade of monopoly capitalism and imperial forces to place the region's resources and people at the service of political elites and the wealthy few in the region and in the "belly of the beast."

This undertaking is particularly notable for the support and understanding it offers for regimes that suffer constant attacks from the United States. The valuable materials it publishes about the extraordinary transformations occurring in Cuba and the painful process of political and economic reconstruction in Venezuela are significant contributions to the construction of an informed debate (unfortunately not a dialogue) in the United States. Similarly, the important discussions about gender issues, indigenous mobilizations, and grassroots initiatives offer important windows on some of the forces that are building bulwarks against efforts to subjugate the region and expropriate its resources.

As I reflect on the dramatic hollowing out of the productive apparatus in Mexico and the intensification of the use of state power to curtail hard-won worker and peasant rights while curbing social programs and narrowing debate on pressing political issues, *LAP's* political significance becomes even more apparent. The inevitable further militarization of the country and disappearance of opportunities for future generations will only be exacerbated by the environmental disasters provoked by ineffective remedial policies that overlook the root causes of the triple crisis that confronts us. In this climate, there is no more urgent task for academics than to strengthen and expand the outlets that *LAP* has constructed for identifying the principal contradictions that we face and promoting an understanding of the underlying dynamics that we must change.

—David Barkin

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I began reading *Latin American Perspectives* more than a quarter century ago when I began my graduate studies but only recently have had the privilege of joining the collective as an editor. My graduate school advisor identified *LAP* as one of five academic journals I should read in the field of Latin American studies. *LAP's* explicitly political orientation, active inclusion of Latin American scholarship, and thematically organized issues provided it with a profile that made it stand out from others in the field.

I came to graduate school after documenting U.S. imperialist interventions in Nicaragua with Witness for Peace and assisting refugees with asylum applications on the United States–Mexico border. I wanted a stronger and clearer theoretical orientation to help me understand the events that I observed in Latin America, and *LAP* played a key role in providing me with scholarly training and an ideological orientation.

My political work documenting U.S.-supported contra attacks against educators and health care providers in Sandinista Nicaragua and then recording stories of refugees fleeing civil wars in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala

largely focused on critiquing the ramifications of U.S. policy in the region. Increasingly, I wanted to understand Latin America from a Latin American perspective rather than only through the lens of U.S. imperialism. Once again, *LAP* provided me with perspectives and ideologies that grew out Latin America rather than only responding to U.S. political and economic interests.

As part of my efforts to understand Latin America from a Latin American perspective, I shifted my research interests in graduate school from Central to South America, where the United States historically has made less of an imperial imprint. Eventually, I ended up working with Indigenous movements in the Andes as they fought against exclusionary economic, political, and social policies. I have always worked at the intersection of political and academic work, and *LAP* embraces and encourages my work as a scholar-activist.

One of the key issues facing the Latin American left today is the tension between progressive governments and the social movements that laid the groundwork for the emergence of these governments through their organizing efforts and extended battles against neoliberal economic policies. *LAP* provides a serious arena for vigorous debate of these and other issues, and I am honored to play a small role in this process as both an author and an editor.

—Marc Becker  
Truman State University

Ron Chilcote convidou-me a participar no coletivo de editores da *Latin American Perspectives* desde a minha entrada no doutorado em antropologia da University of California, Riverside, em agosto de 1995, mas foi Rizélia Duarte, conterrânea que fazia o doutorado em dança, quem insistiu para que eu a acompanhasse às primeiras reuniões de que participei.

Gostei enormemente da dinâmica das reuniões e do aconchego dos participantes. A reunião inicia sempre às 12:30h do primeiro domingo de cada mês, com exceção dos meses do verão, e acontece alternadamente nas casas dos editores que residem nas imediações de Riverside e Los Angeles. É aberta com uma breve seção de anúncios sobre conferências, livros publicados, algum relato de pesquisa de campo ou intervenção política e assim por diante. Depois passa-se à discussão dos pareceres dos artigos sob avaliação. É a quantidade de artigos a se avaliar em cada reunião que define a sua duração. Em geral, essas reuniões duram entre quatro e seis horas. Às 14:45 é servido o almoço, ocasião em que conversamos mais à vontade com os editores mais próximos ou somos apresentados a alguém que está entrando na revista ou mesmo algum editor associado, participante ou honorário, visitando o sul da Califórnia.

A última seção da reunião é dedicada ao que se batizou de “political education” e fica sob o encargo de um dos editores que, geralmente, apresenta uma análise de conjuntura sobre algum país ou alguma situação que, no momento, está despertando a atenção da mídia ou tem algum interesse ou importância para seus estudos, para os movimentos sociais ou para a revista.

Entrei na *LAP* como *intern*, que é como entram todos os alunos de pós-graduação que da revista participam. As suas tarefas são semelhantes às dos editores coordenadores, mas pelo fato de serem apenas alunos e não terem uma afiliação institucional, permanecem nessa categoria até a conclusão do doutorado. Consegui mudar da categoria *intern* para a de editor coordenador ainda