

9TH Annual Conference on the Americas

sponsored by

The Americas Council
and
The University System of Georgia
Office of International Education

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Savannah, GA

February 10-11, 2006

All sessions will be held in Solms Hall

9th Annual Conference on the Americas

Friday, February 10

12:30 **Conference Registration**
Solms Hall Lobby

1:15 –3:15 SESSIONS I & II

Session I: Undergraduate Student Research in Latin America *Solms Hall 108*

Moderator: Lynn Fedeli, Kennesaw State University

The Dirty War and US-Argentine Relations: The Story of Elida Messina

Adam Morris, Georgia College and State University

Faculty sponsor: Jesse Hingson, Department of Political Science, Georgia College and State University

This paper analyzes the important yet little known story of Elida Messina, an American citizen who was kidnapped by the Argentine intelligence service during the so-called Dirty War, a campaign of state terrorism during the period between 1976 and 1982 in which the Argentine military government kidnapped, tortured, and often killed suspected leftist dissidents. Utilizing recent evidence uncovering the United States' role in approving the Argentine government's extralegal methods, I discovered that several American citizens, including Elida Messina, a Fulbright administrator, had been held captive for several days by the Argentine intelligence service. After news reports of her kidnapping in particular made their way to the United States, more Americans put pressure on the United States government to abruptly change its stance not only towards Argentina's government but also its policy regarding authoritarian regimes that abused human rights during the late 1970s.

A Holy Conscience: The Gestalt of Drug Trafficking and Religious Symbolism in *Maria Full of Grace*

Amy C. Linenberger, North Georgia College & State University

Faculty sponsor: Victoria L. McCard. Department of Spanish, North Georgia College and State University

This presentation will examine the use of religious symbolism in the film, "Maria Full of Grace". It will explore the audience's perception and reception of the film as artistic, didactic, and/or blasphemous, and interpret its weaving of real-life crises in Colombian society, the burden of responsibility, and the amalgamation of religious symbolism and immoral events. It will demonstrate that the metaphorical imagery enriches the picture, providing an enlightening representation of necessity, and construing common misconceptions of Colombian society.

United States Policy and Mexico-Guatemala Border Enforcement in the 1980s

David Blackwood, Georgia College and State University

Faculty sponsor: Jesse Hingson, Department of Political Science, North Georgia College and State University

This paper examines the efforts by the United States government in negotiating border disputes between Guatemala and Mexico, two of the United States' most important allies in the region during the 1980s. Recently declassified documents reveal that the Reagan administration used a variety of coercive and diplomatic means to maintain peace along the Guatemala-Mexico border as the region was embroiled in Cold War politics. In addition to its well-known and documented efforts to fight spread of communism in Central America and the world, the US also struggled to stave off conflicts between its key allies in the region. As I will show, these conflicts could have easily escalated into a larger regional conflict, challenging US efforts for regional unity against communism.

The Effect of the September 11, 2001 Terror Attacks on Perceived Safety

Katherine Handwerk, Albany State University

Faculty sponsor: Jacquelyn Robinson, Department of Political Science, Albany State University

The September 11, 2001 terror attacks immediately changed ideas about how safe Americans are as they move through their everyday lives. The purpose of the current study was to assess changes in perception of safety caused by the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Session II: Focus Study Abroad and Teacher Preparation

Solms Hall 110

Moderator: Jim Anderson, Armstrong Atlantic State University

Hybrid Study Abroad & Peru Pilot Program: New short-term inexpensive alternative to traditional Study Abroad, including Distance Learning students

W. Ernie Guyton, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Georgia Perimeter College

This new type of Study Abroad combines in-class instruction, as well as Distance Learning instruction, with short-term Study Abroad experiences and education for students. Its goal is to reach students of all income levels and who may also be challenged by work and family responsibilities. Pilot program to Peru is set for this summer.

Developing a Study Abroad Program in Mendoza (Argentina)

Shirley Oakley, Department of Communications, Coastal Georgia Community College

Ntungwa Maasha, Department of Geology, Coastal Georgia Community College

Study Abroad Argentina is a three-week program based in Mendoza and hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. Presenters discuss the uniqueness of the Cuyo region, including history, culture, and the location near the Andes Mountains, which is highly suitable for study of Physical Geology and Intercultural Communication.

Incorporating a Service Project into Study Abroad

Bill Deaver, Associate Professor of Spanish, Armstrong Atlantic State University

This presentation will include a description of several options for the service to enable students to qualify for the STARS scholarships. It will also focus on two projects for the AASU study abroad program in Mexico: one with the Nuestros Pequeños, and the other with the Instituto de la Mujer para el Estado de Morelos.

Language Attitudes of Foreign Language Pre-Service Teachers

Anja Bernardi, Associate Professor of Spanish and Foreign Language Education, Kennesaw State University

Neysa Figueroa, Associate Professor of Spanish & Foreign Language Education, Kennesaw State University

Standards-based foreign language education programs must include courses in the curriculum that address socio-linguistic variation and dispositions for learning about target language varieties. The presenters will discuss the preliminary results of a study investigating the language attitudes of foreign language pre-service teachers and will propose activities that might be incorporated into the curriculum to develop positive attitudes and promote linguistic tolerance.

3:15 – 3:30 BREAK

3:30 – 5:00 SESSIONS III, IV, & V

Session III: A Closer Look at Argentina

Solms Hall 108

Moderator: Jim Anderson, Armstrong Atlantic State University

English Language as a Second Language in Argentina

Mariano Pablo Ondarzon, Escuela Tecnica N° 7 Dolores L. de Lavalle, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Why do people want to learn foreign languages? Is it for pleasure? Is it because they need it to get a better job? How does the teaching system actually function in those countries where English is not the mother tongue? How are teachers of English are prepared for the classroom?

Learning to Walk Again: The Impact of Steel Privatization in Two Local Governments of Argentina

Cristian A. Harris, Assistant Professor of Political Science, North Georgia College and State University

This paper discusses the effects of privatization on two local governments in Argentina. The complex web of global, hemispheric, and national forces vastly overwhelmed them. Pressures from above to abandon state interventionism and the corporatist model which created these industries and communities and pressures from below to address stark socio-economic conditions are played out in a context of post-transitional democracy.

El Tango Argentino 101

Eddie Alban, Edward Alban, Professor Economics, Savannah State University (retired)

Tango Argentino 101 presents 20 minutes of tangos by Argentinean Orchestras (the real thing) with such classics as La Cumparsita by Juan d'Arienzo, Derecho Viejo by Florindo Sassone and others.

Session IV: Focusing on Immigration and Gender Concerns

Solms Hall 110

Immigrant Narratives: A verbal portrait presented of the lives of local immigrants in search of the American dream

Roschelle L. Mears, Instructor of Spanish, Dalton State College
Marsha Mathews, Assistant Professor of English, Dalton State College

The influx of immigrants to the United States has switched from Europe at the beginning of the 20th century to mostly immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America today--from mainly white to browned skinned people. The face of the "new immigrant" is changing, and the rapidly growing northwest Georgia city of Dalton is experiencing this change first hand.

La Cinta Roja—The Red Belt: An ancient custom of indigenous women in the Veracruz region of Mexico.

Virginia Mateu Armand, Faculty of Nutrition, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz, México
Dorothy Don Davis, Department of Biological/Physical Sciences, Kennesaw State University

This presentation will explore a custom unique to the Veracruz state region of Mexico in which a pregnant woman has her waist bound by a red belt throughout her pregnancy. This ancient practice is an important and revered custom among the indigenous women who still follow the traditional ways. However, it has caused some discussion and dissent among medical practitioners who care for these women during pregnancy and delivery.

Is the Porous U.S.-Mexican Border Undermining U.S. Security Interests?

Dean Alexander, Assistant Professor of Homeland Security, Western Illinois University

This paper assesses whether the porous U.S.-Mexican border undermines U.S. security interests. Answering in the affirmative, the work argues that poor border security contributes to illegal immigration, border crime, instability, and increases the likelihood that terrorists will smuggle individuals and weapons into the United States.

Session V: Social, Political, and Health Issues

Solms Hall 103

Co-operation and Conflict Between Firms, Communities, New Social Movements and the Role of Government: The Cerro de San Pedro Case

José G. Vargas-Hernández, Instituto Tecnológico de Cd. Guzman, Jalisco, México

The aim of this paper is to analyze relationships of cooperation and conflict between a mining company and the involved communities, New Social Movements and the three levels of government. The mining company begun operations for an open pit mine of gold and silver supported by officials from the local, state and federal government. The inhabitants of these communities supported by environmental groups and NGOs argue that the project will pollute sources of fresh water besides of perturbing the environment and the ecology of the region.

Power versus principles: the dilemma of contemporary socialism in Venezuela

Pedro Sanoja, Department of Political Science, Temple University Ambler

This paper studies the contradiction between power and democratic principles in Venezuela in the context of broad social change. Since 1998, the Bolivarian Revolution led by Hugo Chávez has struggled to control the government establishment that would make its desired transformation from capitalism to socialism possible. Meanwhile, this effort has influenced the nature and direction of social change, bringing it into tension with the democratic principles that originally inspired the Revolution. This paper also explores the meaning of socialism in contemporary Venezuelan politics.

5:00 – 6:30 Reception

Solms Hall Lobby

**Sponsored by the Canadian Studies Program
at the University of West Georgia**

Saturday, February 11

8:30 – 9:00 REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Solms Hall Lobby

9:00 – 10:30 SESSIONS VI, VII, & VIII

Session VI: Archaeology, Urban Development, and Globalization *Solms Hall 108*

Recent Archaeological and Paleoecological Investigations in the Bahamas: Evidence for Pre-Columbian Impact on the Environment

Jeffrey P. Blick, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Georgia College and State University
Eric Kjellmark, Florida Southern College

This paper discusses eight lines of evidence for pre-Columbian (ca. A.D. 1000-1500) impact on the terrestrial & marine environments of the Bahamas, specifically on Andros Island and San Salvador.

Urban Development and Environmental Policies in Cuba: Lessons from the Last Decade

Behrooz Kalantari, Professor, Master of Public Administration Program, Savannah State University

This study provides an introductory look at the economic and social conditions of Cuba after the collapse of the Soviet Union and specifically deals with the role of Cuba in Latin America at the present time. The study mainly concentrates on the issue of sustainable urban development approaches to environmental protection during the last decade in Cuba. It takes into consideration the overall political, economic, and cultural circumstances to bring about fundamental changes and development of policies in urban development area.

NAFTA, Globalization, and Marginal Coffee Growing Areas of Veracruz, Mexico: Can Educational and Agricultural Diversification Save Small Farming Communities?

Glenn C. W. Ames, Director of International Public Service and Outreach, University of Georgia
Martha Alleksaht-Snider, Associate Professor, Elementary & Social Studies Education, University of Georgia

The performance of Mexico's agricultural economy directly impacts the country's economic, social and political stability. Since the coffee crisis of the late 1990s, small farm income in Mexico has plummeted and out-migration has depopulated some rural areas. The government has responded with a diversification program in Veracruz to eliminate dependence on coffee.

Session VII: AASU Graduate Student Panel
Solms Hall 110

U.S. and Latin American Relations During the Truman Administration

Moderator: Michael Hall, Associate Professor of History, Armstrong Atlantic State University

U.S. and Cuban Relations - Margo Edgerly
U.S. and Mexican Relation - Darren Phillips
U.S-Panamanian Relations - Matthew Perry
U.S. and Brazilian Relations - David Tittle

Session VIII: Canadian Student and Faculty Panel
Solms Hall 103

Moderator: Rick Sutton, Director of International Education, University System of GA

Planning at the Edge: The Evolution of Ontario's Planning Legislation since 1970

Rupert Dobbin, Department of Political Science, University of West Georgia

This paper explores changes in the orientation of Ontario's planning legislation in the last few decades of the 20th century, and argue that there are significant challenges ahead. Planning legislation has undergone significant change during this period, no where so much, perhaps as in the late 1990s, in response to the problem accommodating expansive urban development and infrastructure "on the edge".

Immured in Cultural Walls: The Difficulties of Language Barriers

Taylor Adkins, University of West Georgia

The principal issues addressed in this paper concern the effects of bilingualism in Quebec. A short summary of the colonization and the social/political development of Quebec – and the linguistic cleavages that emerged between French and English Quebecers – will first be provided. I then examine the origins and reactions to various Quebec language laws, and the effects these laws have had on Quebec's population.

10:30 –10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45 –12:00 SESSION IX – Welcome and Keynote Address

Solms Hall 110

Presenter: Jim Anderson, Conference Coordinator

The Americas Council: Mark Patterson, Kennesaw State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University: Ed Wheeler, Interim Vice President and Dean of the Faculty
University System of Georgia: Rick Sutton, Director of International Education

Keynote Speakers

Chile from 1914 to 2006: The Struggle for the Recognition of Women's Rights and the Election of the first Ms. President

Julio Parada, Director of International Relations and Professor of English
University of La Serena (Chile)

On January 15, Chileans elected their first Ms. President, Michelle Bachelet. She will preside over a country that is on quite solid political and economic grounds. Chileans look hopefully and sympathetically at her performance, but she has the great responsibility to promote social progress and a better distribution of the national wealth for all. The great question is: will female leadership, not just in the presidency but also in all levels of the administration, mean a different approach in style or management of the national problems?

From a broader perspective, Ms. Bachelet's election is also the result of more than 100 years of struggle for recognition of women's rights in a very conservative society. Her election indicates that deep cultural changes are taking place in Chile, but in a cautious way that tries to maintain an equilibrium between innovation and traditional thought.

A Look at Chilean Culture through Violeta Parra: Chilean Composer, Singer, Poetress and Painter

Elvis Campos, Professor of English
University of La Serena (Chile)

Violeta Parra (1917-1967) was a Chilean folklorist also known as the mother of the Nueva Canción Chilena, or new song movement. This was a musical and social movement that emerged from Latin America in the late 1960s and created a "new song" combining various folk music styles with lyrics that spoke to issues of social change. Throughout the world today prominent musicians such as Plácido Domingo, Mercedes Sosa, Vicente Fernández, Milton Nascimento, and Joan Baez perform her songs.

12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH

1:30 – 3:00 SESSIONS X, XI, & XII

Session X: Painting and Literature

Solms Hall 108

Moderator: Lynn Fedeli, Kennesaw State University

Diego Rivera's Search for a Collective Mexican Identity

Kathryn Garcia, Instructor of Spanish, Georgia Highlands College

The focus of this presentation is to examine Diego Rivera's proto cubist and cubist work in Europe and some of the influences that shaped his development as an artist representing the essence of a place. The presenter will show how Rivera's time in Spain, particularly Toledo, and France served to create an artist concerned with depicting a collective Mexican identity.

"Please Remember Me As Kind": A Short Story in Letters

Anna Schachner, Department of Spanish, Georgia Perimeter College

The presenter will be reading an epistolary short story that includes a focus on cultural differences between Mexico and the United States.

Can We Truly Be Friends in a World Like This? The Tourist, the Hustler and Social Class in Cuba

Victoria L. McCard, Associate Professor of Spanish, North Georgia State and State University

This presentation will examine the hierarchical (neocolonial) relationship that exists between tourists and the Cubans who work to satisfy their every need. Specifically it will focus on the challenges inherent in establishing a lasting friendship within this context of extreme economic inequality.

Session XI: AASU Graduate Panel - Early Cold War History *Solms Hall 103*

Moderator: Michael Hall, Associate Professor of History, Armstrong Atlantic State University

Saudi Arabia's Impact on the Western Hemisphere - Yvonne Terry

The CIA's Impact on the Third World - Derek Bentley

Israel's Impact on the Western Hemisphere - Steven Henderson

Session XII: Panel : Canadian Culture, History and Education *Solms Hall 110*

Chair: Mark Patterson, Associate Professor of Geography, Kennesaw State University

For the National Good: The Challenge to Public Ownership of Telecommunications and the Canadian West, 1980-1993

Ronald S. Love, Department of History, University of West Georgia

In the opening years of the twentieth century, there had erupted a controversy on both sides of the Canadian-American border that had led to the establishment of government-owned and operated telephone systems in Canada's three prairie provinces between 1905 and 1912. What one sees in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan in the first decade of the twentieth century was the formation of telephone policies in each province built around a government structure in response to particular social and economic needs, but prompted to varying degrees by popular demand for telephone service under public ownership unencumbered by eastern-based monopoly.

Eighty years later, the issue of private versus public ownership of public utilities reignited across Canada to become one of the most significant features of the public policy landscape in recent times. The argument for privatization of public utilities and support for competition under federal regulation gained the upper hand, and the provincially owned telecommunications utilities were forced to acknowledge that competition in both long-distance and local service was unavoidable, while regulation from Ottawa was becoming irresistible. Following a series of court battles, the provincial Crowns ultimately lost the fight against privatization, while the federal Telecommunications Act passed in June 1993 brought the entire industry under federal jurisdiction.

Canadian Memory in Elizabeth Bishop's Work

Robert Kelly, Department of English, Macon State College

There are easily a half dozen Elizabeth Bishop poems, along with several prose pieces, that reflect upon her childhood years in Nova Scotia. In addition to the rich, evocative details Bishop provides in these works, she also illustrates a unique manner of remembering, a way of recalling the past that might be deemed distinctly "Canadian".

Canada's Aboriginal Voices Radio: "Native Radio for the Urban Native"

Larry Etling, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts, Valdosta State University

Aboriginal Voices Radio (AVR) is a non-profit organization formed in 1998 to develop the Aboriginal Voices Radio Network (AVRN), Canada's first network devoted exclusively to the Aboriginal and Native communities. This paper outlines the development of the network and examines some of its programming.

The Other Way West: Early Exploration of Western Canada

Doug R. Oetter, Georgia College and State University

The celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition has received a great deal of attention in the United States, but it is not commonly known that there were several earlier expeditions across the plains and mountains of Canada that opened up new lands to European settlers and scientists. This paper documents and describes some of the more important voyages of discovery, which were generally associated with the fur trapping industry, as they proceeded across the upper Great Plains and on to the Arctic and Pacific Oceans in the mid- to late-eighteenth century. From Henry Kelsey and Anthony Henday to Alexander Mackenzie and David Thompson, these early explorers mapped over a million square miles of uncharted territory, using a cunning combination of technology and skills derived from both European and Native traditions. The cultural, geopolitical, and scientific implications of their expeditions rival those of the more

famous Lewis and Clark voyage of discovery, and serve to remind that discovery at this scale requires a sustained group effort, which may reoccur frequently in the lives of those who follow.

3:00 – 3:15 BREAK

3:15 – 4:45 SESSIONS XIII, XIV, & XV

Session XIII: KSU Graduate Student Panel
Solms Hall 103

The Development of Cultural Sensitivity in Nurse Practitioner Students: A Culture-Focused Practicum in Aibonito, Puerto Rico

Moderator: Andrea Knopp, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Primary Care and WellStar School of Nursing, Kennesaw State University

Cari Monteilh NP Student, KSU
Deanna Turdorancea, NP Student, KSU
Chika Oraka, NP Student, KSU
Michael Nissan, NP Student, KSU

Georgia has experienced phenomenal growth of the Latino population in the past decade. In order for our graduates to be effective providers for their Latino clients, they must possess knowledge and sensitivity regarding the clients' cultural and health beliefs. In the panel presentation, faculty and students will discuss how the students' experiences provided them with a new understanding of the cultural and health beliefs commonly held by their Puerto Rican clients.

Session XIV: Myths & Legends of the Americas: *La Llorona sin Fronteras*
Solms Hall 110

Moderator: Dana Nichols, Assistant Professor of English & Spanish, Gainesville State College

Cheryl A. Harris, Coordinator of Foreign Language Lab, Gainesville State College
Luis A. Cossio, Spanish Tutor, Gainesville State College
Adán G. Sixtos, Spanish Tutor, Gainesville State College

This presentation will address the concept of legends/myths transmitted orally across borders and time. Panelists will begin with a brief and general discussion of the Santa Claus and Boogey Man figures, but we will focus primarily on La Llorona (The Weeping Woman) who exists in some form in a variety of cultures throughout Central and South America.

Session XV: Canada Panel 3: Education, Communication, and Planning

Solms Hall 108

Moderator: Chair: Ron Love, Department of History, University of West Georgia

Information Technology: Canada vs. United States

Gerald W. Adkins, Professor of Information Systems, Communications & Marketing, Georgia College & State University

This paper provides a description of an ongoing research project by the author to provide a comparative study of information technology in Canada and the United States. Preliminary examination of usage and infrastructure data shows the countries to be very comparable. However, significant differences appear to exist in cultural related areas, and border related issues have yet to be examined.

The Bonus, the Buck and the Boodle: Industrial Subsidy Patterns in 19th Century Ontario

Heather Nicol, Director, USG Center for Canadian Studies, University of West Georgia

Nineteenth century industrial development patterns in Ontario suggest that “the bonus” as generally utilized in predictable ways to ensure local development agendas. Far from being a “boodle” or scam, such subsidies were tailored to suit regional development imperatives. Those regions that were less industrialized tended to rely on subsidy to deliver a range of economic activities consistent with their economic development imperatives. The bonus provided to be a flexible means of delivering economic development incentives—although it was not always as effective in delivering the promised development.

The Americas Council would like to extend a special thank you to Armstrong Atlantic State University for organizing and hosting this conference and to the Canadian Study Program at the University of West Georgia for sponsoring the Friday evening reception.