

2009-2010 PILAS Annual Report

Date: 08 July 2010

Report written by: Chandra Morrison, Co-President
Reviewed by: Cara Levey, Co-President
Ainhoa Montoya, Conference Coordinator
Susanne Hofmann, Conference Coordinator

Overview of the 2009-2010 PILAS Committee:

The 2009-2010 PILAS Committee was based at the University of Manchester, as elected at the 2009 Conference in Cambridge. As discussed and voted upon during the 2009 AGM, the 2009-2010 Committee attempted to incorporate students from multiple universities within the greater Manchester area. In accordance, the Secretary position was taken up by Cara Levey, from the University of Leeds. Additionally, as voted upon and approved at the 2009 AGM, the advisory role of Past President was enacted, with the first position being taken up by Chandra Morrison (2008-2009 President) from the University of Cambridge. In December 2009, after the resignation of the originally elected President due to unforeseen personal circumstances, Cara Levey (Secretary) and Chandra Morrison (Past President) stepped in as Acting Co-Presidents for the remainder of the academic year, while Ainhoa Montoya and Susanne Hofmann (both from University of Manchester) took up the position of Conference Coordinators. Thus, dating from January 2010 through July 2010, the PILAS Committee consisted of the following members:

PILAS Executive Team

Co-Presidents: Cara Levey (Leeds)
Chandra Morrison (Cambridge)

Conference Coordinators: Ainhoa Montoya (Manchester)
Susanne Hofmann (Manchester)

Treasurer: Rachel Wilde (Manchester)

Conference Committee, based in Manchester

Logistics Team: Carolina Corral, Kirsten Howarth, Pablo Jaramillo, Siobhan McGrath,
Jessica Pineda Zumarán, Germán C. Prieto, Giulia Sirigu

Programme Management: Ania Kowalczyk, Robin de la Motte

Social Events: Félix Aponte González, Alex Flynn, George Oliveira Bentley, Patrick O'Shea, Hugo Romero, Jacqueline Romo, María Ximena Sanclemente

2010 PILAS Conference:

This year the annual PILAS Conference was held at the later date of 15-17 June. The two and a half day conference welcomed over 111 participants, including 63 paper presentations on 22 panels, which covered a diverse range of research subjects. The conference featured two Keynote Lectures, given by Prof. Caroline Moser (University of Manchester) and Prof. Anthony McFarlane (University of Warwick). Additionally, this year two unique multi-media elements were incorporated into the programme, as the conference opened with screenings of two ethnographic documentaries, produced by Manchester postgraduate students, and concluded with a guided History Tour through central Manchester which discussed Manchester's relations with the Atlantic slave trade.

Other PILAS Activities:

As in previous years, PILAS hosted the 'PILAS@SLAS Lunch' for postgraduates attending the annual SLAS Conference, this year held at the University of Bristol (9-10 April). The lunch event primarily facilitated a social space where postgraduates could network and socialise with each other, and provided an introduction for students new to PILAS as well as featured a training event on "Tips for Postgraduate Publishing" led by Cara Levey.

In late-2009, the PILAS JISCMail forum was reinitiated, which facilitates an open forum for postgraduate students to post and review information about conference announcements, calls for papers, and other relevant events going on around the UK.

The PILAS Committee also continued to update and further develop the website, including the addition of new pages dedicated to Elections, Past Conferences & Events, Conference FAQs, and Research Resources. In particular, the Research Resources page features downloadable short-documents which provide information about a variety of subjects of interest to postgraduate students working in the area of Latin American studies. We hope that these resources continue to be developed and expanded in the coming years.

Review of 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Elections:

The 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Elections were held on Thursday 17 June, the final day of the Manchester Conference. The AGM was chaired by Chandra Morrison, and was attended by participants of the 2010 Conference. Following a summary of the year's events, the AGM enjoyed a lively discussion which brought up many ideas and suggestions for continuing to develop PILAS in future years.

With regard to elections, nominations for the 2010-2011 PILAS Committee and Conference location were announced via email and posted on the website for two months prior to the elections. We received one formal bid to take on PILAS next year, from a group of students based at the University of Cambridge. While PILAS was hosted at Cambridge quite recently (2008-2009), this issue was discussed openly at the AGM and, as the Cambridge bid was well-presented and uncontested, the proposal was unanimously approved and voted in as the optimal option for next year.

Accordingly, the 2010-2011 PILAS Committee will be headed jointly by Catriona McAllister and Andrew Tillman, acting as Co-Presidents, and the 2011 PILAS Conference will be held at the University of Cambridge. Cara Levey will stay on as Past President, the advisory role established in 2009 in efforts to maintain a level of continuity between committees. We wish the incoming PILAS Team the best of luck!

Agradecimientos:

Finally, we would like to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to:

... All those at the University of Manchester, who helped facilitate such a successful 2010 Conference;

... Professor John Gledhill, for his much appreciated enthusiasm and support of holding the PILAS Conference at Manchester;

... Lucy Taylor and Christy Palmer, for their technical support with running the PILAS website;

... The SLAS Committee, for their ever-steady support of PILAS and postgraduate research;

...and, of course, the entire PILAS Community,

...Thank You!