

Progressive registration policy for LASA2021

During these eight months of pandemic, LASA has been able to deal with uncertainty and to keep the LASA2021 Congress alive. This has involved not only organizing round tables and panels, but also rethinking the overall experience of a Congress in virtual terms: sections meetings, award's presentations, informal meetings, among others. The Association's three publications -LARR; LARC and LASA Forum- have also been sustained, as well as *Project Muse* which allows our Latin American membership to access indexed academic journals. Finally, LASA has reinforced its on-line activities such as *LASA Dialogues* and is about to implement a virtual book exhibition with different publishing houses.

However, as everyone knows, the crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic on our continent has strongly impacted our academic communities and LASA's sustainability has been affected: the number of people who acquire or renew membership, for example, has decreased this year by about 10% with respect to 2019. In addition, we are no longer receiving the revenues that came from our agreement with the University of Pittsburgh. Finally, we must bear the technological costs involved in the production of a virtual congress that requires a platform that can accommodate all Congress activities, such as the different panels, formal and informal meetings, the book fair, the Film Festival, art expos, etc. There are also expenses associated with the costs of "live streaming" and data storage.

To assist with the budgetary difficulties and cuts our academic community and the universities have suffered, whilst being mindful of the sustainability of the Association as well as the commitment to providing a quality congress, LASA has implemented a series of measures we want to report to the membership:

- A "pay what you can" policy was implemented for membership renewals at the time of proposal submission. This measure concluded on September 30, 2020.
- A progressive congress registration policy was implemented based on the income both of the membership and the country of origin to facilitate the participation of financially stressed people.
- The registration of people who requested LASA grants for the LASA2021 Congress and who were accepted into the program will be covered 100%. There are 796 people, which means that at least 20% of the people who submitted proposals in LASA will not have to pay said registration.

- The cost of attendance to the Congress without being a presenter this time will be \$40 (countries in group 1); \$30 (countries in group 2); \$26 (countries in group 3) and \$20 (countries in group 4) in order to facilitate the participation of a new public who may join the Association in the future.

With these policies, we want to guaranty a financially secure future for our Association, as well as a 2021 Congress sensitive to the times in which we live. At the same time, we want to deliver its attendees the same opportunities to debate, learn, connect, relate to each other, and build professional and personal connections which so far, we have only achieved with in-person interactions.

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