

LASA2021 Congress will be a virtual event

Dear LASA member

We hope that you are safe and healthy, together with your loved ones, at the time of receiving this communication.

The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has brought unprecedented challenges to the academic community in Latin America and the world. Thanks to its members, LASA has been able to cope with the extraordinary circumstances we face without stopping its activities; on the contrary, LASA has maintained its publications, debate and dialogue series, and continues to organize its next Congress.

Because of the continued expansion of COVID-19 and the lack of a solution in the short term, however, the LASA Executive Council has made the difficult decision to eliminate the in-person element of the LASA2021 Congress. The congress was going to be held in the Vancouver Convention Center in Canada, on May 26-29, 2021. **LASA will continue working to carry out the LASA2021 Congress successfully in a virtual modality on the same dates.**

After several meetings with the Vancouver Convention Center personnel, it became evident that an in-person Congress was increasingly difficult, risky, and incompatible with the LASA2021 academic program, which would gather more than 4,000 participants in 500 sessions in the four-day event. Moreover, many countries around the world, including Canada, are still closed to travelers from several Latin American countries and the United States. Regarding people coming from countries allowed to enter Canada, a 14-day quarantine is required after arrival. It is not possible to assure today that these measures will cease to be in effect on the dates the Congress was scheduled.

While transforming LASA2021 into a virtual event is a disheartening outcome for those planning to attend in person, we are confident it is the most appropriate action to ensure the health and safety of our members and to carry out the Congress successfully. Taking into consideration the successful participation and level of satisfaction of LASA2020 virtual attendees, we are working hard to make sure that LASA2021 will exceed the expectations of the membership.

Please stay tuned to our website for more details about the LASA2021 Virtual Congress. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to send an email to lasa@lasaweb.org.

We are honored to continue serving the Latin American Studies community.
Thank you for your interest in LASA2021 and for your understanding in these difficult times.

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