

**MINUTES of the SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION LATIN AMERICA DIVISION
held by Zoom on Monday 19 December 2022**

Board members present: Alejandro Mercado: Alejandra Trejo, Sergio Montero, Miguel Flores, Pedro Amaral, Miguel Atienza, Laura Sariego,

Guests: Hipolita Siquiera, Cristina Armenta, Daniel Molina, Sergio Palomeque

RSA staff: Daniela Carl, Alex Holmes, Suede Stanton-Drudy

Apologies: Jose Borello, Renato Garcia, Igor Tupy, Jana Schmutzler de Uribe

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021

The AGM agreed this was an accurate record of the meeting of the RSA Latin America Division held on 23rd November 2021.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

Actions for 2020 meeting

- Jose Borello to email Ambassadors for short modular pieces for the Division Newsletter.

Action: all Ambassadors to assist Jose as he is retiring and planning a sabbatical next year.

Action: Suede Stanton-Drudy to discuss the future of the newsletter with Jose

Actions from 2021 meeting

- Board members to discuss the ADP Special Issue.

ADP has recently published a Special Issue on transport in Latin America but may be interested in a proposal in 2023 as it will have an impact factor then.

Action: Board members to email Miguel Atienza regarding topics for a Special Issue in ADP

Action: Miguel to liaise with Mick Dunford

Sergio Montero reported that there had been very few articles published in the journal *Regional Studies* from Latin American authors for the last 2 years. It was suggested that rather than focus on Latin America itself, the Division could focus on a topic or framework that might attract Latin American academics. Sergio suggested linking the Special Issue to the next Latin America Conference.

Action: Board members to email Sergio Montero regarding topics for an RS Special Issue

- Igor and Laura volunteered to assist Daniela and Jana with work on the early career writing sessions. This action is no longer proceeding.

It was suggested the Division could build a database of geography departments in Latin American Universities to improve the marketing reach of activities.

Action: Board members to send to Suede the names and contact details of 5 key universities in their country that have strong geography departments.

- A virtual workshop for Latin American authors on how to write for English journals aimed at mid-career scholars addressing how to get published.

There was some doubt whether this would work for ECR. It could be more suitable for mid-careers. Sergio reported he was trying to connect the publishing workshop with the special issue for RS which would be led by mid careers, not ECRs.

The idea of a Latin America conference to build the network and strengthen the division received support. This was discussed again later in the meeting.

3. Report to the Board of Territorial Activities

- **Chile** – Miguel Atienza reported that there had been a small increase in the number of RSA members in Chile as two new members had joined. Miguel had attended the GCEG in Dublin in June 2022 and was part of the RSA's Meet the Editor session representing ADP.
- **Brazil** – Pedro Amaral reported that over the last year, despite the restrictions still imposed by Covid19, he had been able to resume some of his activities as RSA Ambassador in Brazil. In addition to relaying and advertising RSA events, welcoming new members, and answering questions on events and funding opportunities, he had the opportunity to participate as a speaker in the RSA Professional Development Webinar Series - Academic writing & publishing in English, and to help with the organisation of RSA International Hour - Brazil. Both events had good attendance from Brazil and helped advertise the association in the country.
- **Colombia** – Sergio Montero, the RSA Ambassador to Colombia has been disseminating information about the RSA and also participated as co-organizer of a session for the 2022 RSA Winter Conference: SS09. Varieties of Experimental Governance: North-South Dialogues on Policy Innovation and Regional Transitions.

- **Mexico** –Alejandra Trejo Nieto reported that she regularly invited students and colleagues in the field of regional and urban studies to join the association. She used her personal social media accounts as a mean to disseminate information about activities, conferences, grants and publications of the RSA. She managed the Regional Studies Mexico (@MexicoStudies) Twitter account where she shared information of the association and its publications.

She launched with her co-editor an edited book on Metropolitan Governance in Latin America (which was part of the Regions and Cities series) during the #RinR22 festival. She invited students to participate in the RSA Blog Student Summer Series and they published an article. She responded to a request for a commissioned article in Area Development and Policy in order to increase the visibility of Latin America in the journal. The paper had been published online. She was the guest editor in the Latin American Perspectives in Regional Studies a special call for papers for the RSA blog which in the first round received 3 articles (from Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil).

Miguel Flores reported that he regularly promoted the RSA to colleagues and students.

- **RSA** – Daniela Carl provided a presentation on opportunities and what’s happening at the RSA.

4. Events

The meeting discussed ideas for the next RSA Latin America Division conference.

Alejandra reported that the Mexican Ambassadors were not able to support a large conference in Mexico due to difficulties around finance and organisation. Miguel Flores believed his university Colmex had the infrastructure but would need to charge for a conference.

Sergio Montero reported that the event in Colombia was funded by the RSA, the registration used the RSA system, and his university provided the rooms. So the greatest challenge had been the effort in terms of inviting key note speakers and organisation.

It was noted that if conference were to be held in 2023, the proposal, budget and call for papers would need to be prepared by February which seemed unmanageable.

Action: Daniela Carl to resume discussions with interested institutions in Mexico, Ecuador and Chile that were halted by the pandemic. This would be around an event for 2024 or 2025.

5. Chair of RSA Latin America Division

There was one candidate for the position of Chair of the RSA Latin America Division - Alejandra Trejo Nieto. Alejandra left the zoom room during this item.

The Board unanimously agreed the return of Alejandra as the Chair of the RSA Latin America Division for 2022/2023.

Alejandra returned to the zoom room.

6. To elect new members to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any

The following Territorial Representatives were re-elected for a further term as Trustees of the Board of the RSA Latin America Division for 2022/2023:

- Jose Borello, Argentina
- Pedro Amaral, Brazil
- Miguel Atienza, Chile
- Sergio Montero Munoz, Colombia
- Alejandra Trejo Nieto, Mexico
- Alejandro Mercado Celis, Mexico
- Miguel Flores Segovia, Mexico

The following Officers were re-elected for a further term as Trustees of the Board of the RSA Latin America Division for 2022/2023:

- Igor Tupy – Treasurer
- Jose Borello – Secretary (Spanish speaking)
- Marco Aurélio Crocco Afonso - Patron

The following Board members were re-elected for a further term as Trustees of the Board of the RSA Latin America Division for 2022/2023:

- Jana Schmutzler de Uribe
- Laura Sariego

New Trustee Elections

In November 2022 an email was sent to all Latin American RSA members inviting them to attend this AGM. The floor was opened to any non-Board member present to stand for election to the Board of the RSA Latin America Division. Cristina Ibarra Armenta indicated she would like to stand for election and was placed in a zoom breakout room during this part of the item.

Attendees voted to have Cristina Ibarra Armenta as a member of the Board of the Latin American Division of the RSA.

Cristina was returned to the room and informed of the outcome of the vote. She was congratulated on her success and thanked for volunteering her support to the Division and the Association.

7. Any other items for discussion but not decision

Laura Sariego suggested a discussion around how Board members could better contribute throughout the year or roles can be strengthened.

Action: Suede Stanton-Drudy to email Board members their action reminders every 3 months

Cristina Ibarra Armenta offered to be part of the organising committee for a Division conference.

Papers End