
EDITOR'S FOREWORD

The dramatic changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China will undoubtedly have a long-range effect on developments in Latin America. The most predictable consequence will be a reduction of the Cold War tensions that have provided a rationale for U.S. actions in the Western Hemisphere since World War II. Historians will remind us that the U.S. domination of the Caribbean and Central America, if not the entire hemisphere, was well established long before the Cold War and hence may not wane as the threat of Communism in the Americas fades into the historical sunset. Nevertheless, the relative decline of the United States as a world economic power, perhaps best symbolized by its joining the Latin American nations in the "club of debtors," suggests that the future of hemispheric relations may move in new and different directions.

It is noteworthy that the exciting developments in Eastern Europe and Asia have not lessened interest in Latin America, which is undergoing its own experiments with democracy and economic policy. Student enrollments in courses on Latin America appear to be booming around the country. Membership in the Latin American Studies Association is at an all-time high, and attendance at its congresses has tripled since the early 1980s. This rising interest has also resulted in a sharp increase in research on Latin America, reflected in the articles published and the books reviewed in *LARR*.

As is customary, we report to our readership in the last issue of each year the pattern of manuscript submissions and the outcome of the review process. For the year running from June 1988 through the end of May 1989, a total of 135 manuscripts were received, an increase of 12 percent over the previous year's total of 120 submissions. Of the 135 submissions, 31 were book review essays. The remaining 104

manuscripts entered the review process. By the end of June 1989, 16 of these manuscripts had been accepted for publication, 5 manuscripts had been withdrawn by their authors, 74 had been rejected, and 9 were still under review. Of the 90 manuscripts that were fully processed (those either accepted or rejected), the acceptance rate was 18 percent, about the same ratio of one in five that has been a consistent pattern in the last several years.

The distribution of manuscripts in terms of discipline, while following traditional patterns, shows some change in the direction of more equal distribution. Political science, which has tended to lead all fields in submissions to *LARR*, retained first place but dropped from 31 percent of all manuscripts to 27 percent. History regained its traditional second place (after a two-year lapse) with 23 percent of submissions, relegating economics to third place with 18 percent. Languages and literature submissions were ranked fourth with 10 percent, edging out sociology, which dropped to 9 percent. Anthropology submissions constituted 4 percent of the total. All other fields, including bibliography, journalism, religion, geography, popular culture, and music, contributed 11 percent of the total.

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>June 88– May 89</i>	<i>June 87– May 88</i>	<i>July 86– May 87</i>
Political Science	27%	31%	28%
History	23	16	18
Economics	18	18	23
Languages and Literature	10	8	9
Sociology	9	14	7
Anthropology	5	5	2
Other fields	8	8	13
Totals	100%	100%	100%

Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian authors, including those living in Europe and North America, submitted 27 percent of all manuscripts, as compared with 33 percent for the previous year and 27 percent for the preceding report period. Submissions by women authors increased to 29 percent of all manuscripts, as compared with 22 percent for the previous year and 27 percent the year before that.

Twenty percent of the manuscripts came from outside the United States, as compared with 19 percent for the previous year. Fifty percent of these manuscripts came from Latin America and the Caribbean, representing Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, and Venezuela. Other countries represented included Canada, England, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Africa.

The editors remain committed to the peer review process, the success of which depends on the time and effort of the many colleagues who contribute their expertise as anonymous referees and on the hard work of LARR's Editorial Board. The observant reader will note that with this issue, we are welcoming a new board. Our appreciation and thanks go to the members of the previous *LARR* Editorial Board, whose contributions were outstanding.

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