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# THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



News from the Director  
Past events

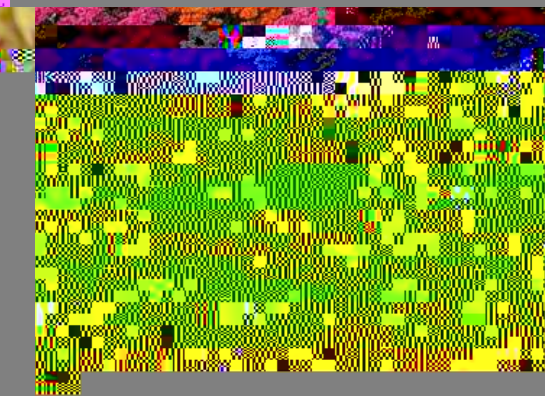
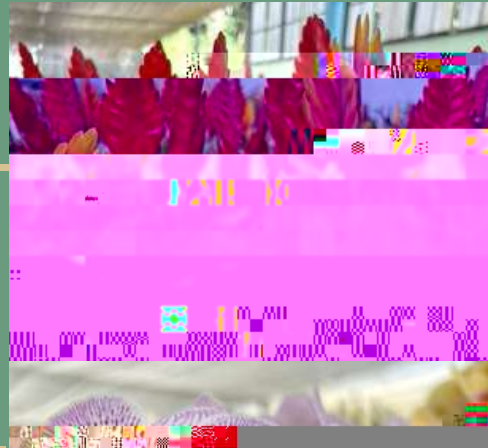
Student Spotlight

Faculty Spotlight

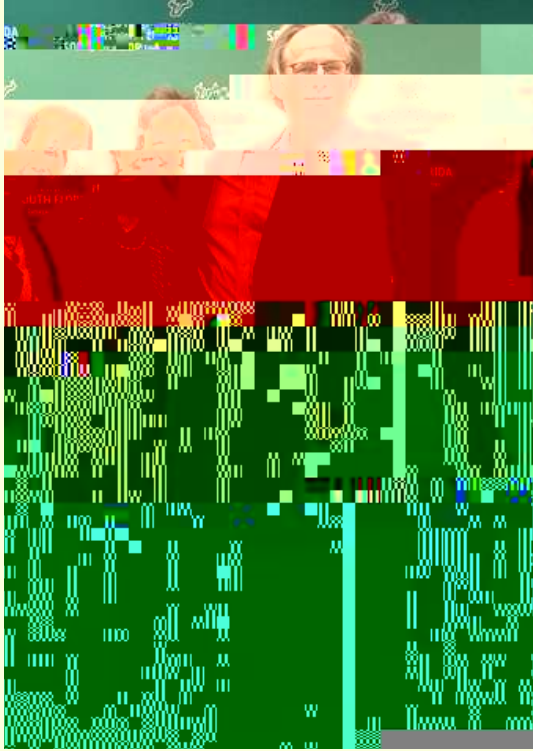
ISLAC Abroad - Brazil

First ISLAC Global  
Symposium

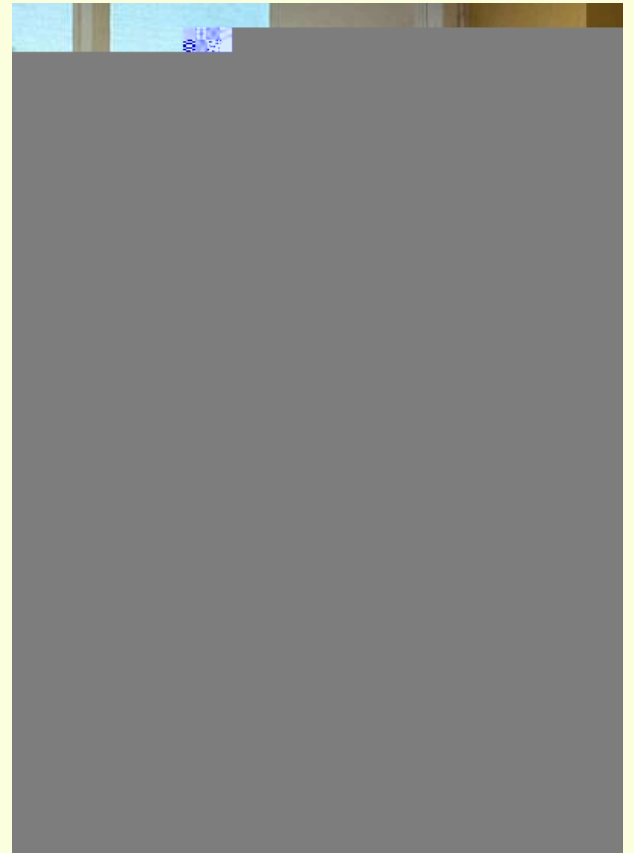
LAC takeaways



Bea



Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy and Director of the Texas Center for Education Policy, University of Texas at Austin, visited USF on February 22 and 23, 2024. She gave a lecture on "The Power Of Authentic Cariño (Caring) And Pedagogy In The Third Space: Experiencing The Sacred At Academia Cuauhtli" and a workshop on "Creative Resistance In The Struggle Against Anti-Diversity Policy In Texas", sharing her own experiences. She advocated for the importance of social justice and equity in education.



# ISLAC Past Events

The (Latina/e/o/x Graduate Student Association) organized a lecture about "A history of Afro-Cuban Influence in Tampa Bay". ISLAC co-sponsored this event, held on February 27 as part of the celebrations of Black History Month.



The speaker was Susan Greenbaum, Professor Emerita USF Anthropology, who presented about the history and contributions of Afro-Cubans to Tampa. Susan Greenbaum worked with members of La Union Marti y Maceo, founded in 1900.

The speaker highlighted the importance of researching in and with the community to bring light to the memories for the local people. During her presentation, she talked about historically relevant figures related to Tampa, such as José Marti, Paulina Pedroza, Teofilo Dominguez, and María Jesus de Vierna. In

Also, well-known authors,  
(USF) and , delighted  
the audience by reading excerpts from their  
books and sharing their writing processes.  
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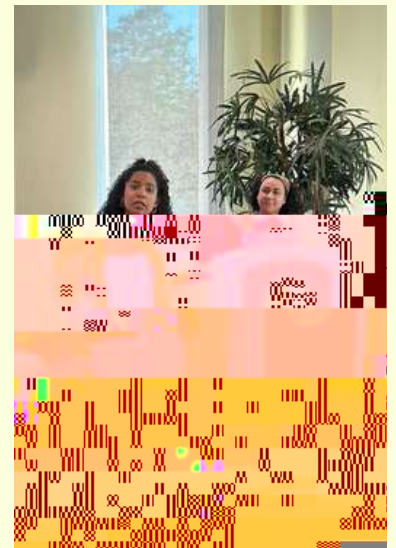
# ISLAC Past Events

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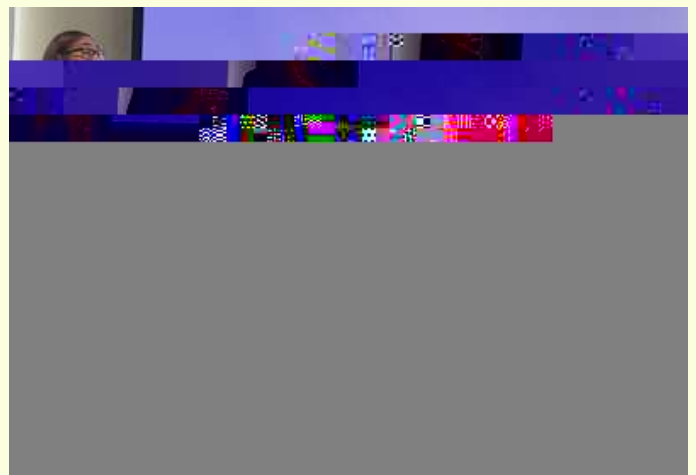
(Ph.D. student in Sociology) was the moderator and the the panel included:

- - MA student in Applied Anthropology and Public Health
- - Ph.D. Student in Sociology
- - MA Student in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health
- - MA student in Management with a concentration in Project Management



This event represented a meaningful opportunity for bonding and validation regarding their everyday experiences.

was referred to as a fundamental resource for Latina graduate students, and both ISLAC and the Hispanic Professional of Women Association were acknowledged as crucial entities providing this support.







Hosted by the Student Organization for Qualitative Methodologies at the University of South Florida, April 19 and 20, this symposium provided a space where students, faculty, and other participating researchers can engaged in scholarly conversations that will contribute towards understanding diverse qualitative methodologies and their applications.

ISLAC was present in this relevant event. Dr Beatriz Padilla participated in a panel on "Multicultural and International Research". Dr Dora Arreola (Arts) was a discussant for a panel on "Exploring Art and Trauma with Two Forms of Interviewing: A Workshop." Michelle Angelo-Rocha, Ph.D., former ISLAC student presented a paper on "Transcending Immigration Borders: Technology, Community-Based Research, and Qualitative Inquiry" and Glenda Vaillant Cruz, Sociology-ISLAC affiliated student presented a paper on "Constructing a Place within Spanish Universities: Unpacking the Ethnoracial Experiences of Latino, Latin

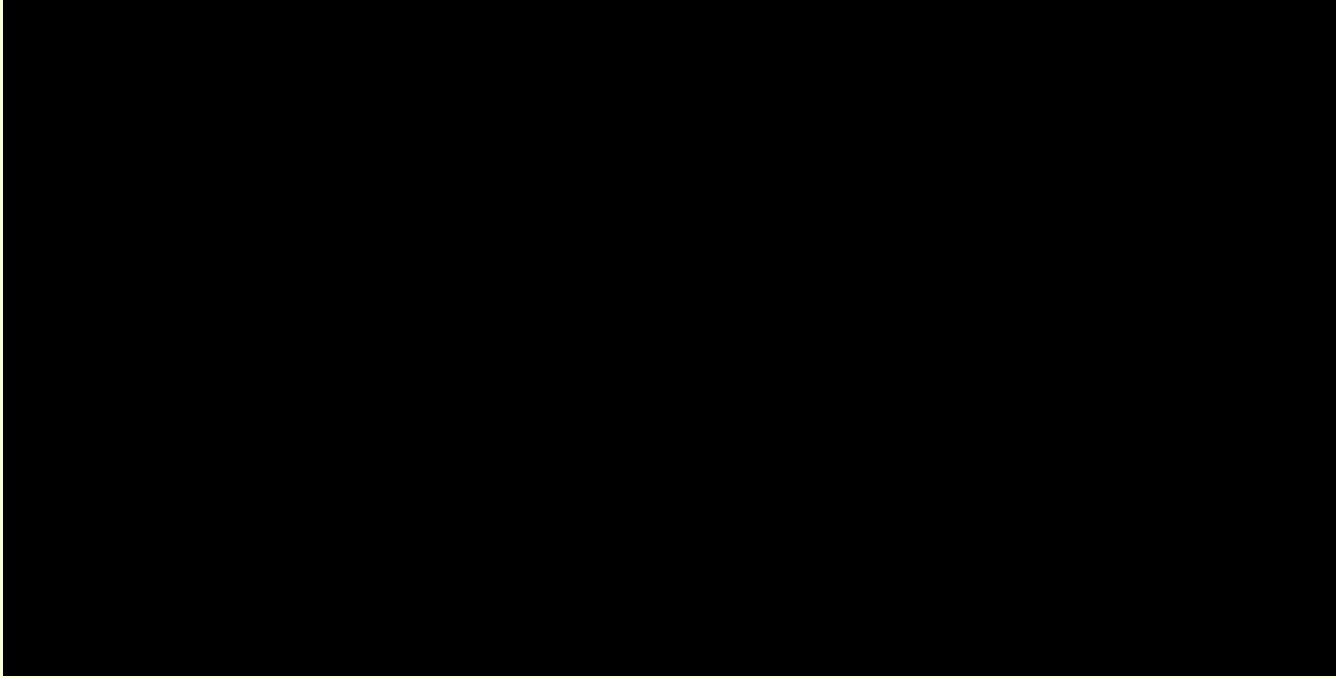


# ISLAC Student Spotlight

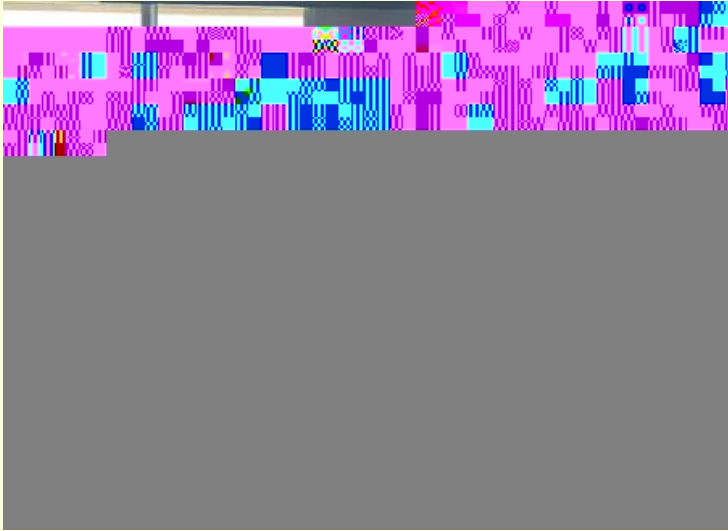
Barbara, a student of the Master in Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, successfully defended her thesis, "Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Education, and Bilingualism: Ethnography of a STEM Program for Elementary Students in Southwestern Florida." The examining committee was composed of Kiran Jayaram, Beatriz Padilla, and Rebecca Zargar. We are so happy about your success, Barbara!



Joel Alvarez published two articles, a



# Faculty Spotlight

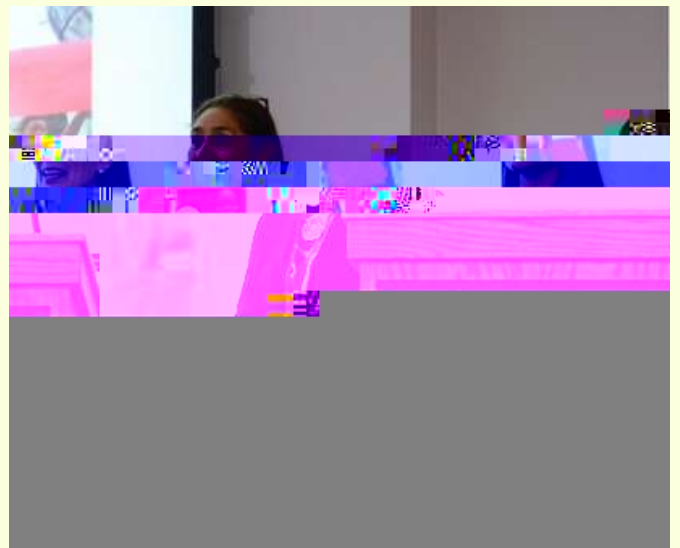


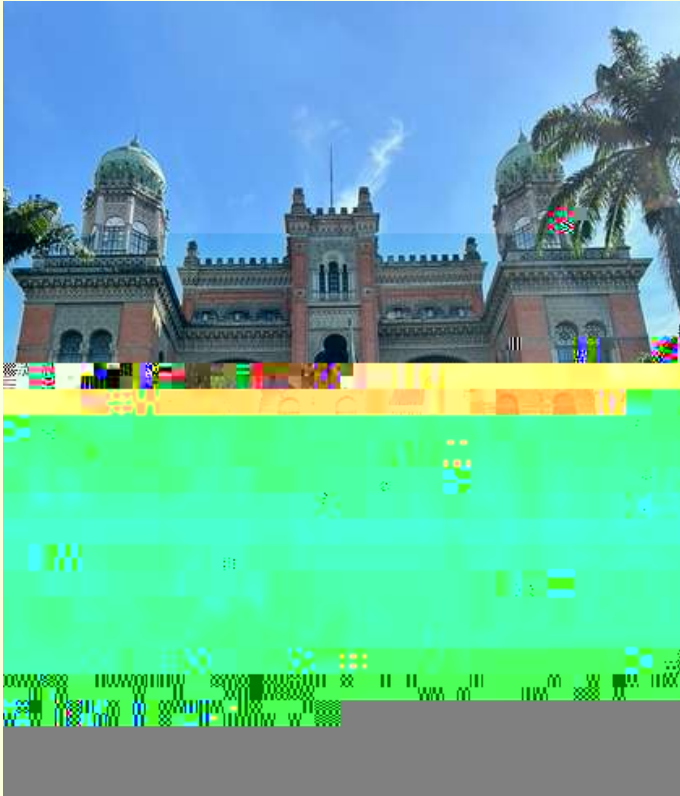
In her lecture "Practice of Resistance against Discrimination and Prejudice in Academia," Dr. Padilla reflected on the importance of academic freedom and the impact of censorship in research. Moreover, she analyzed the discrimination and abuses that Latin American women suffer in their educational journey, using the example of the mobilization of Brazilian female students at the University of Coimbra in Portugal.

The presentation contributed to a debate where students expressed their concerns about the conditions that threaten research. Dr. Padilla highlighted that questioning is essential in academia, since it shapes how knowledge is constructed.

The Florida Society of Social Sciences (F3S) is a UF graduate student organization that aims to cross-fertilize social and humanistic sciences, provide spaces where emerging scholars can grow and cooperate while promoting social justice, and provide opportunities for all students to develop their professional skills & research agendas.

The conference held on April 13 was an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to present innovative research, brainstorm ideas, and collaborate with peers from several Florida colleges and universities. Anabela Villach presented a paper entitled "Paradiplomacy in Argentina and Brazil. A perspective from their federal governments."





Dr Padilla received a Visiting Scholar Fellowship, granted by the Brazilian National Science Foundation (CAPES) associated with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. She partnered with Dr Isabela Cabral Felix de Sousa, who was a visiting fellow at ISLAC and USF in the Fall of 2023.

During her visit, she taught a course entitled "Migrations and mobilities in global contexts: migration and integration policies, and international health".

The first part of the course introduced students to concepts, general topics associated with migrations and policies, and multilevel governance of migrations.

The second part focused on health and migrations, exploring issues related to the international mobility of health professionals, the World Health Organization's ethic code to hire and recruit foreign health professionals and all issues related to the recognition of diplomas from abroad to be able to work in the health-related professions (medicine, nursing, dentistry, psychology, among others), revē gy efōd n he § igrae φ



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O Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Estudos Migratórios convida para a apresentação e debate:



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ISLAC proudly supports students' research and academic success and progress.

This year several ISLAC affiliated students have received travel grants and research fellowships.

The most recent recipient is [unreadable]

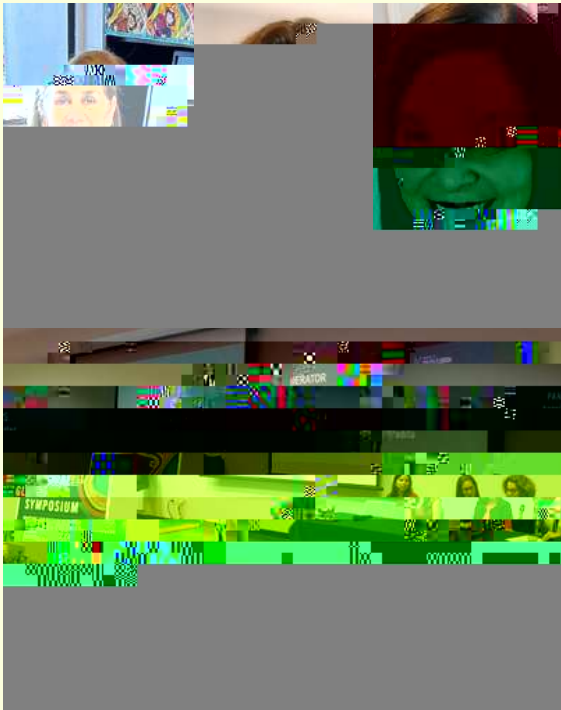


# 1st ISLAC Symposium

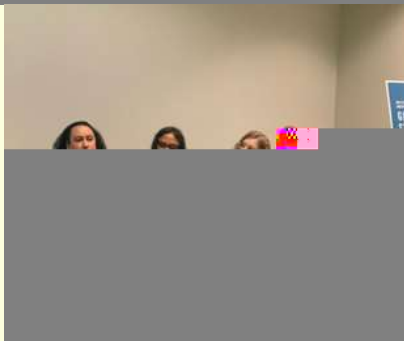
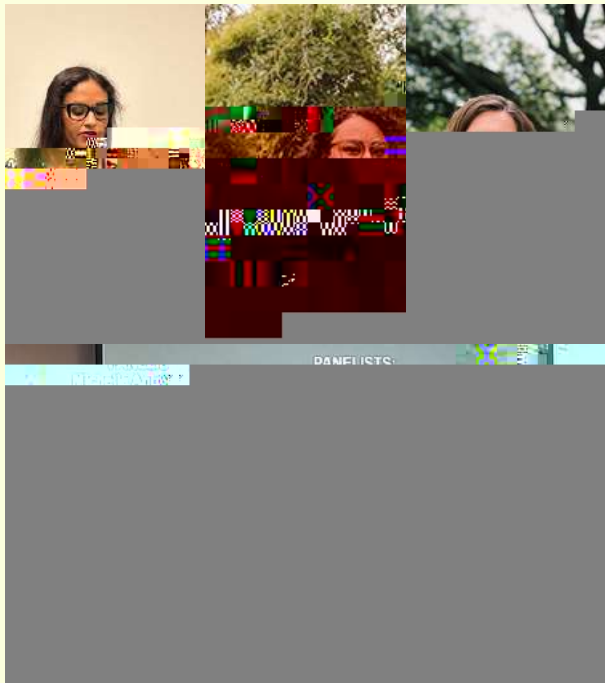
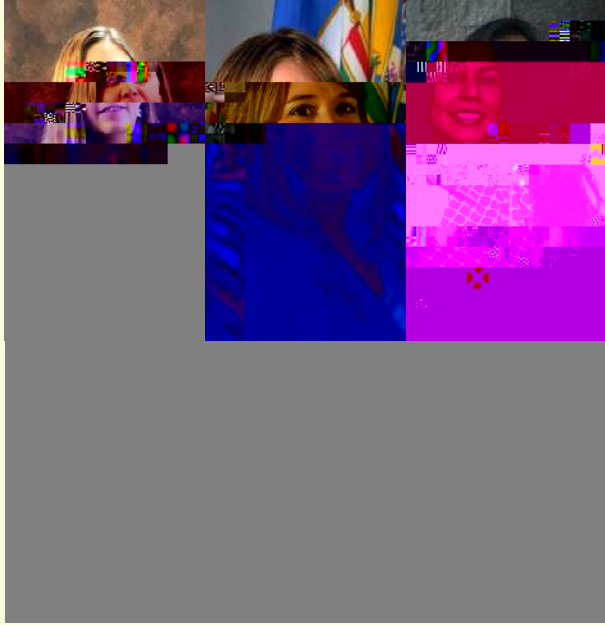
On April 11th and 12th, ISLAC held its First Global Symposium

celebrating academic excellence, cultural impact, and community engagement. It brought together esteemed scholars, community leaders, and passionate advocates to lead the discussion about current Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos issues.

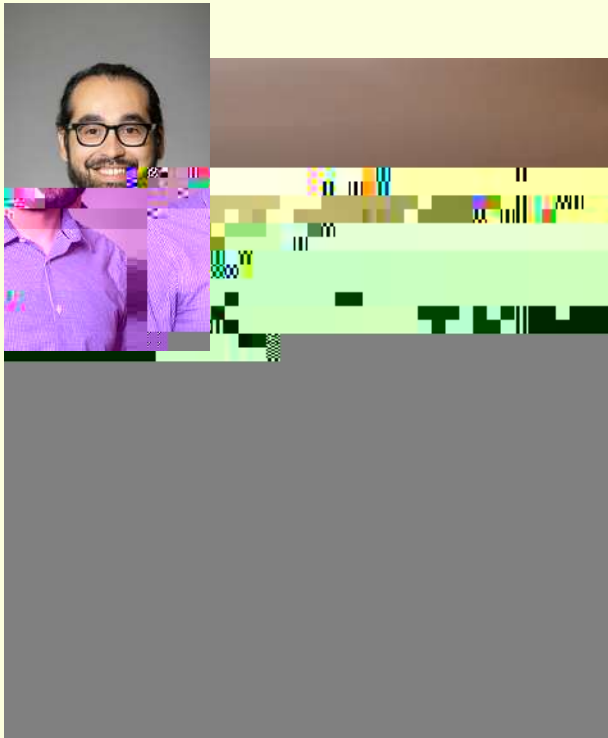
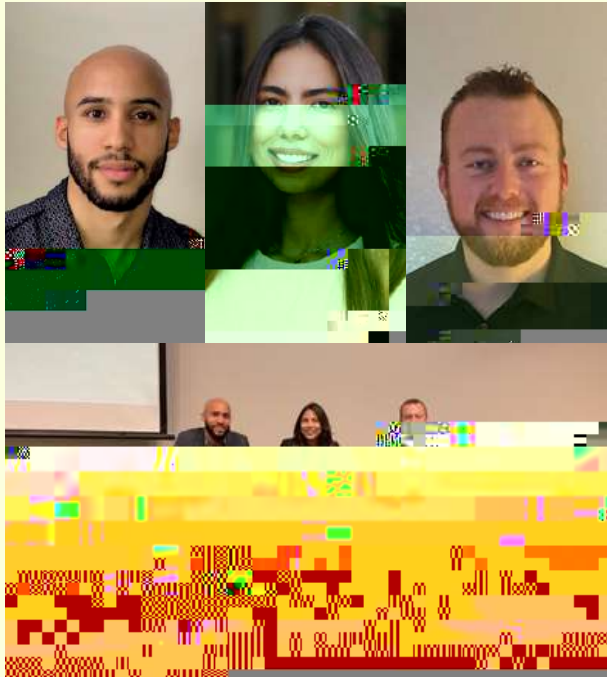
The opening ceremony featured USF Provost Prasant Mohapatra, Interim CAS Dean Magali Michael, Betty Castor, Former USF President, Maura Barrios, community historian and Beatriz Padilla, ISLAC.



Our first panel delved into the critical roles and challenges faced by institutes and centers dedicated to







# 1st ISLAC Symposium



The hybrid/interactive panel focused on the cultural contributions of virtual global exchange, featuring students from the University of South Florida (USF) and the Universidad Marista de Mérida de México (UMM).

- [Redacted], USF World Languages
- [Redacted] and [Redacted], UMM Departamento de Idiomas

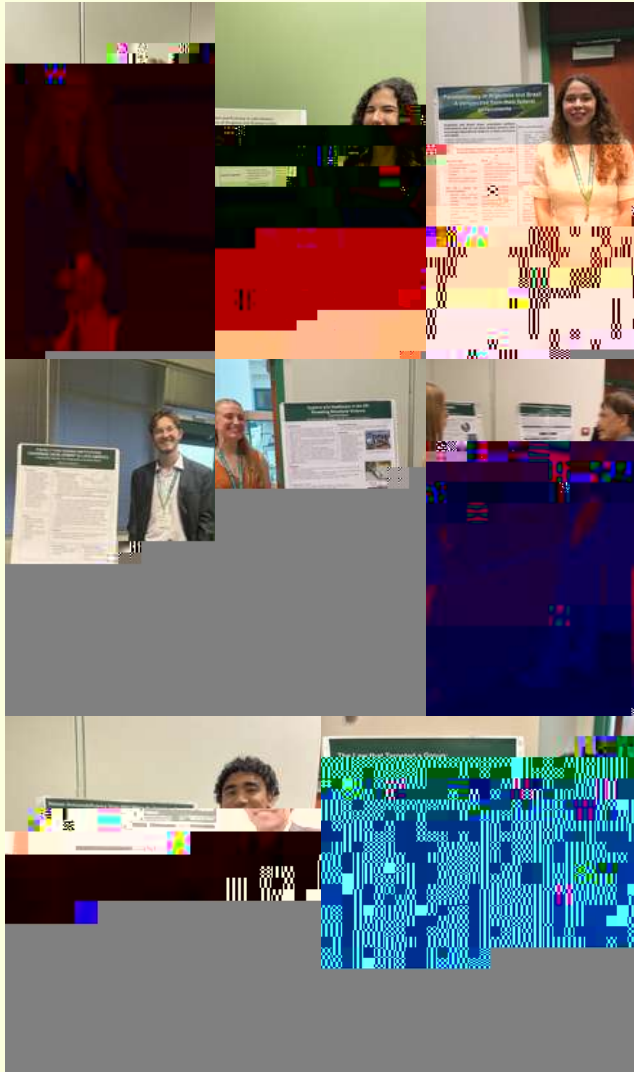


The second session of the day delved into teaching about and engaging with Latin America and the Caribbean. Presentations covered topics such as language and social justice, Liberatory Imaginaries of Caribbean Youth through reading and writing, Afro-Mexican identity and justice, citizenship, and the incorporation of oral histories into secondary classroom teaching about the region.

- [Redacted], USF College of Education.
- [Redacted], Jr., USF College of Education.
- [Redacted] and [Redacted], USF College of Education.



# 1st ISLAC Symposium



Marking our last session of the day, undergraduate and graduate students had the chance to present their research about various topics in Latin America and the Caribbean. While students presented their posters, a jury walked around to evaluate the best undergraduate and graduate posters, which was announced at the end of the symposium.

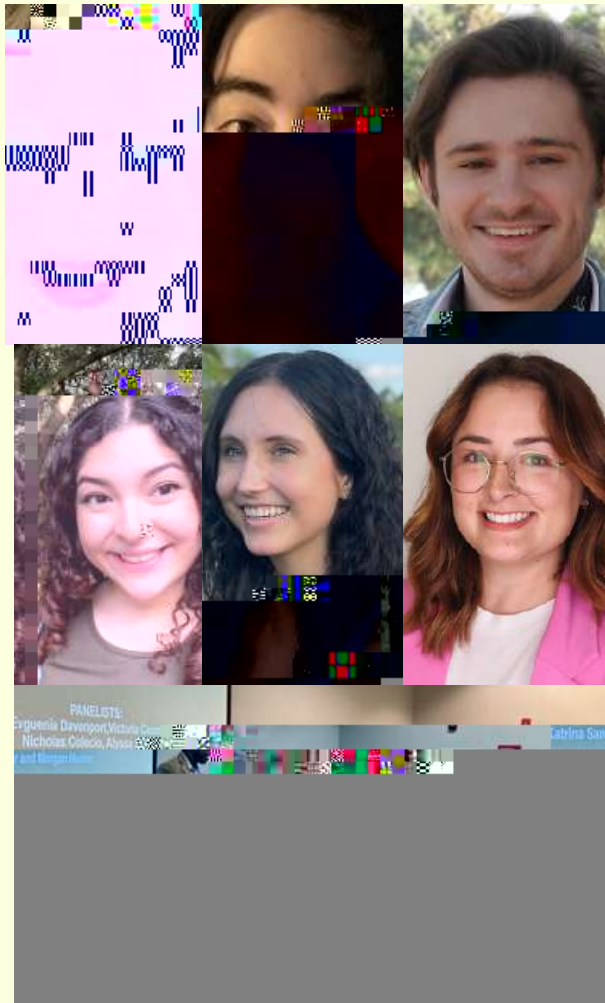
- [Name], USF Judy Genshaft Honors College.
- [Name], USF Judy Gensh



# 1st ISLAC Symposium



Led by Moderator Adriana Novoa from the USF Department of History/ISLAC, in this session attendees explored diverse research topics. Discussions ranged from Ecuador's dynamics during the Cold War era to emerging narratives about the Haitian Other in Dominican social media. Additionally, the session deê

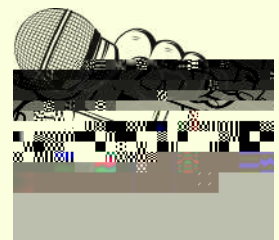
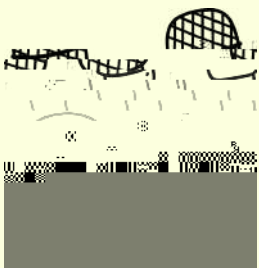




# LAC News Takeaways

Here are some news and events happening in Latin America and the Caribbean

- **Argentina** : April 23th, tens of thousands took to the streets in Buenos Aires and other province capitals to demand more funding for public universities. Argentina's president Javier Milei, came to office in December of 2023, his campaign announced serious cuts to public spending.
- **Brazil** : The country will host the presidency of The Group of Twenty (G20), the main forum for international economic cooperation. Several Brazilian cities will host relevant meetings, which will conclude with the Summit of Rio of Janeiro, on November 18 and 19. World leaders of the 19 member countries, plus the African Union and the European Union will be in attendance.
- **Colombia** Tens of thousands of Colombians marched on April 21 to reject economic and social reforms being proposed by President Gustavo Petro.
- **Cuba** The High Court has overturned a ban on consensual same-sex relations in the Caribbean island nation. The court overruled the criminalized of same-sex relations and they are no longer considered against the country's constitution.
- **Ecuador** : On April 5th Ecuadorian police entered by force the Mexican Embassy in Quito and seized Jorge Glas, Ecuador's former vice-president. He had been granted asylum by Mexico just hours earlier. In response, Mexico filed a case before the International Court of Justice.
- **Costa Rica** The Prime Minister, Ariel Henry, resigned, and a new council was sworn in to lead the country which has been at stake due to deadly gang violence. Henry's Minister of Economy and Finance, Michel Patrick Boisvert, will be interim prime minister until the transition council appoints a new head of government, a cabinet, and a provisional electoral council set to pave the way for an eventual vote.



For more information on our upcoming events, please visit ISLAC webpage

We would love to include other faculty

