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## EDITOR'S FOREWORD

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The varying colors that distinguish each year's issues of *LARR* from the preceding year's numbers are a practice inherited from the early years of the journal, as well as a rough guide to the contents ("that article was in one of the yellow issues") and a source of visual pleasure. The editors were once told by a subscriber that one of her colleagues, on seeing a deep lavender *LARR*, observed, "Any journal that color must be worth reading!"

The idea of varying the color of the cover was a relatively new concept in journal publishing when *LARR* first appeared in 1966. It is now a *LARR* tradition, as well as a frequent practice among other journals. Yet however attached we remain to the pleasures of seeing, holding, and reading a print copy of *LARR*, other innovations than color have been underway for some time. The first use of information technology came when the editorial staff converted from paper and pencil copyediting to a combination of on-screen and paper editing. Then came the switch from sending a "styled" (hand-marked) paper copy of each issue for typesetting to sending encoded floppy disks to the compositors, along with a hard copy. Then *LARR* became available commercially on CD-ROM, and more recently back issues of *LARR* have become accessible electronically in Graphic Imaging Format (GIF) through libraries participating in the JSTOR (Journal Storage) project.

The latest use of information technology to disseminate *LARR* comes through a new web site on the Internet. Made possible by a grant to the Latin American Studies Association from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City, an electronic version of new issues of *LARR* is now available on the Internet to subscribers at no additional charge. The *LARR* web site (<http://larr.unm.edu/>) is worth a visit. Free access is provided to the *LARR Index* for the first thirty years (1965–1995) and to the tables of contents of recent issues. LASA members and individual direct subscribers can request on-line a code to access the full text of recent issues, a code that is e-mailed to them. Others who wish to access the full text must join LASA or subscribe to *LARR*, which can also be done on-line.

Despite these technological advances in production and accessibility, the features that are essential to *LARR*'s quality and academic significance remain unchanged. These include careful screening of incoming submissions, thoughtful selection of readers, the dedication of the many scholars who serve as unpaid referees, and thorough copyediting in consultation with the authors. Because the editors do not commission articles or design special issues devoted to specific themes, the content of *LARR* continues to reflect solely what is submitted by authors and approved by referees. Another long-standing policy continues as well, the independent conduct of all aspects of *LARR*'s production by its small staff, which include printing, mailing, advertising, royalty management, list sales, back issue sales, and subscriber services. The efficiency of this independent operation has made it possible to hold *LARR*'s prices for libraries and individual subscribers to rates that are the lowest of any journal in the field of Latin American studies and certainly among the lowest of any mainline academic journal. Commercial journal publishers place profit above circulation. *LARR*'s staff has the opposite commitment: to disseminate knowledge as widely and inexpensively as possible. As a result, *LARR*'s paid circulation of about 5,000 subscribers is more than twice that of the nearest competitor.

Manuscript submissions to *LARR* during the year running from June 1999 through May 2000 dropped slightly to 102, as compared with 105 the previous year. Thirteen of these submissions were book review essays, and three others were withdrawn. The remaining 86 manuscripts entered the review process required for potential articles and research reports. By the end of May 2000, 5 of these manuscripts had been accepted for publication or accepted pending revisions, 52 had been rejected, and the remaining 29 were still under original review or a second review following revisions. An additional 11 manuscripts from the previous report period were also accepted after having been revised and resubmitted. The publication rate for articles and research notes that completed the review process (only those accepted or rejected) remained steady at about 1 of 10 original submissions, with the proportion rising to about 1 of every 5 if resubmitted manuscripts are included in the overall totals.

Patterns of submission by discipline were consistent with trends in recent years. Political science manuscripts remained at 35 percent of all submissions. History submissions constituted 20 percent of total submissions. Economics and sociology manuscripts tied for third place, each with 12 percent. Literature manuscripts dropped slightly to 7 percent, down from 10 percent the year previous. Anthropology submissions increased slightly to 5 percent. Other fields accounted for the remaining 9 percent of submissions. Among the disciplines represented in this category were ecology, education, philosophy, and religion.

| <i>Discipline</i>        | <i>June 1999–<br/>May 2000</i> | <i>June 1998–<br/>May 1999</i> | <i>June 1997–<br/>May 1998</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Political Science        | 35%                            | 35%                            | 34%                            |
| History                  | 20                             | 23                             | 25                             |
| Economics                | 12                             | 13                             | 12                             |
| Sociology                | 12                             | 10                             | 15                             |
| Languages and Literature | 7                              | 10                             | 3                              |
| Anthropology             | 5                              | 4                              | 3                              |
| Other fields             | 9                              | 5                              | 8                              |
| Totals                   | 100%                           | 100%                           | 100%                           |

Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian authors or coauthors, including those living in Europe and North America, submitted 40 percent of all 1999–2000 submissions, as compared with 36 percent the previous year and 41 percent the year before that. Women authored or coauthored 27 percent of submissions, as opposed to 35 percent last year and 29 percent two years ago. Twenty-seven percent of the manuscripts came from outside the United States, the same figure as the previous year. Sixty-eight percent of these non-U.S. manuscripts came from Latin America and the Caribbean, as compared with 50 percent in the preceding report period. The Latin American and Caribbean countries from which submissions came were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela. Other countries represented included Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Scotland, and Spain.

It will be interesting to see whether the availability of *LARR* on the Internet will lead to an increase in submissions from outside the United States. If such a change appears, we will document it in future annual reports.

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