

THE SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

England & Wales · Charity number 278817

Details

Other names S L A S

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1979-11-05

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Queen's University Belfast
School of Arts
English
University Road
Belfast
BT7 1NN

Phone +44 28 9097 1141

Email s.bowskill@qub.ac.uk

Website www.slas.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE AND PROMOTE THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM(FOR FURTHER DETAILS, SEE CLAUSE 2)

Activities: Supports and undertakes postgraduate and academic research on Latin America.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£92,498	£93,079	-	-
2023-12-31	£88,296	£101,059	-	-
2022-12-31	£142,422	£55,442	-	-
2021-12-31	£98,754	£75,835	-	-
2020-12-31	£90,350	£64,642	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Aiko Ikemura Amaral		2025-04-11
Dr Catriona Jane McAllister		2022-04-21
Dr Clara Garavelli		2025-04-11
Dr Daniel Mandur Thomaz		2025-04-11
Dr Geoffrey William Maguire		2024-07-01
Dr Julio Cesar De Souza Doria		2025-04-11
Dr Karol Valderrama-Burgos		2022-04-21
Dr Paul Merchant		2019-04-05
Dr Penny Miles		2024-07-01
Dr Rebecca Heather Ogden		2021-04-12
Dr Sarah Bowskill		2023-03-31
Dr William Alexander Booth		2026-04-10

THE SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 278817

Accounts

SLAS Trustees' Annual Report

31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Legal and administrative information

Charity number: 278817

Principal address:

Dr Marieke Riethof (President 2023-2025) / Prof Sarah Bowskill (Vice-President 2023-2025). Queen's University Belfast, School of Arts, English, University Road BELFAST, BT7 1NN. +44 28 9097 1141.
Email: mriethof@liverpool.ac.uk.

Organisation

The Society is run by the board of trustees, following the provisions made in our Constitution (<https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution>), made up of the following persons for the year 2024:

Officers

President, Dr Marieke Riethof, University of Liverpool
Vice-President, Prof Sarah Bowskill, Queen's University Belfast
Co-Treasurer, Dr Karol Valderrama-Burgos, University of St Andrews
Co-Treasurer, Dr Catriona McAllister, University of Reading
Co-Secretary, Dr Rebecca Ogden, University of Sheffield
Co-Secretary, Dr Geoffrey Maguire, University of Cambridge.

Ordinary Committee Members

Dr Yaneidys Arencibia Coloma, University of Manchester (2024-26)
Dr Cara Levey, University College Cork (elected in 2023)
Dr Paul Merchant, University of Bristol (2023-25)
Dr Penny Miles, University of Bath (2024-26)

Ex-officio Members

Prof Thea Pitman, Past-President, University of Leeds
Dr Juan Pablo Ferrero, Coordinating Editor, Bulletin of Latin American Studies, University of Bath
Mr Juan Luis Bradbury, President of Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge

Independent examiner:

Aysgarth Chartered Accountants, Suite 3b Kings House 1 King Street Leeds LS1 2HH

Banker: Natwest Westminster Bank Plc, Chatham Customer Service Centre, Western Avenue, Waterside Court, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RT

Objectives of the Charity in the Public Benefit

The objectives of the Society, as stated in our Constitution (<https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution>) are to advance and promote the study of Latin America within the United Kingdom, and in particular to:

- a. sponsor an annual conference for Latin Americanists.
- b. sponsor or co-sponsor such other conferences or meetings as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate.
- c. publish a periodical bulletin, the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* (BLAR), the ownership of the copyright to the content and title of which will be retained by the Society.
- d. maintain a website for the Society and publish other publications as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate; and
- e. co-operate with public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.

Review of activities

Activities in calendar year 2024 included the following:

- a. Our highly successful annual conference was hosted by the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA) at the University of Amsterdam on 1-3 July, with a conference dinner and reception held at Restaurant Tolhuistuin.
- b. We supported the activities of PILAS, Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, including the running of their annual conference held at the University of Amsterdam on 4 July.
- c. We also sponsored a variety of events and awarded grants and prizes on all our normal schemes (<https://www.slas.org.uk/funding>) and introduced a new funding opportunity: the UK Scholar's Research Support Grant.
- d. We awarded £44,477 in grants and prizes. Details of each of the funding schemes and recipients can be found in the Secretary's Report (<https://www.slas.org.uk/annual-reports>) for 2025, which captures activity for 2024.
- e. We have continued to maintain our website, as well as develop our social media presence with investment in regular posting on behalf of SLAS and our journal.
- f. We have continued to co-operate with all other public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.
- g. We furthermore undertook the following additional activities during the year:
 1. updated the workflows for our journal and increased its social media presence.
 2. updated our governance policies.
 3. participated in national discussions about issues such as open-access publishing, and the future of Latin American Studies teaching and research.

Plans for the future

Overall our focus is on maintaining the core activities of the Society as listed above (A to E) in a fast changing environment where our most important income stream (the publication of our scholarly journal, the *Bulletin of Latin American Studies*) is likely to reduce by between 20 and 25% over the next couple of years. At the same time we remain open to all viable means to promote the study of Latin America in the UK.

Reserves policy

Our policy is to keep in reserve assets to at least the value of £100,000 representing the normal maximum annual turnover.

Risk Review

The academic publishing market is changing fast with the shift to Open Access publishing and this impacts SLAS directly as the vast majority of our income comes from our journal. We have nonetheless managed to negotiate a new contract with the publisher Wiley that promises to maintain our core income at a good level over the next five years, thus enabling us to continue our normal range of activities in support of the Society's objectives. We are nonetheless attentive to the need to ensure that the journal is managed in a financially prudent way going forward. We are also able to alter the number of grants that we offer each year to ensure that expenditure matches income as closely as possible. We also have healthy reserves as we go into this period of change.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustee(s) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 11 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Marieke Riethof

SLAS President, 2023-25

Treasurer's report year ended 31st December 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Bulletin of Latin American Research+Conference	83,576	87,934
Donations	294	362
Interest received	8,628	0
Total incoming resources	<u>92,498</u>	<u>88,296</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	52,905	45,556
Support & governance costs	40,174	55,503
Total resources expended	<u>93,079</u>	<u>101,059</u>
Net incoming resources	-581	-12,763
Total funds brought forward	344,936	357,699
Total funds carried forward	<u>344,355</u>	<u>344,936</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

BALANCE SHEET

	2024	2023
	£	£
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash current account	180,509	184,936
Cash savings account	<u>163,846</u>	<u>160,000</u>
Net assets	<u>344,355</u>	<u>344,936</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	<u>344,355</u>	<u>344,936</u>

Income

The main source of income for SLAS (90.4% in 2024) came from the contract with Wiley. This income represents a share of the profits from BLAR (the Society's journal) for publication year 2023, coupled with the membership payments collected on behalf of SLAS in that year.

Donations of £294 come from standing orders from previous memberships that have not been cancelled.

We received the interest from our Skipton account for both 2023 and 2024 within this calendar year. Our Nationwide savings account was credited with the interest from December 2022 to July 2024. Total interest income was therefore £8,628.

Our conference in Amsterdam gave an income of £5,948, but as this was not received in our account until 2025 it is not registered in this report.

Expenditure

The main items of expenditure for 2024 correspond to Prizes and Grants, for £44,477. This was £4,789 more than in 2023, primarily due to the fact we paid both our 2023-24 and 2024-25 Post-doc awards this calendar year.

We paid 6 grants to enable Latin American scholars to attend our annual conference (£9,102) and bursaries for the same purpose to 18 PhD students and Post-Docs based at UK institutions (£6,963). We paid 6 Post-doc awards in 2024 (£12,000), which (as noted above) corresponds to the successful applications in both academic year 2023-24 and 2024-25.

We paid 11 Postgraduate and Postdoctoral research support grants (£10,818), the Cátedra SLAS (£600), 6 Seminars/Conferences grants (£3,494), and one UK scholar research grant (£1,500). Total spend on grants was £7,723 less than budgeted. Most of this was due to grants not awarded. We awarded 2 of a possible 3 UK Scholar research grants, and only one of those was paid out this year (the other will register in the 2025 accounts). We had 3 unawarded PG/PD research support grants. Other underspend was due to a small number of grants not being taken up, or recipients underspending on the amount awarded.

With regards to expenses by BLAR, the main expenditure arose from the payment to the BLAR associate editor, made through the University of Liverpool (£12,061).

A payment of editors' honoraria was made for each of the BLAR editors, totalling £8,750. Six editors received the standard honorarium (£1,000 each). Three new editors started in mid-January and received a pro-rata amount (£917 each). The editor-in-chief received an additional £1,000 in recognition of additional work involved in the transition to ScholarOne. Two prizes totalling £1,200 (i.e. the Blakemore prize jointly awarded to 2 recipients and the Master's prize) were awarded by the BLAR editors. BLAR associate editor expenses correspond to £77 for printing costs.

Expenses by SLAS committee members, BLAR editors and PILAS Chair to attend the AGM within the annual conference in Amsterdam totalled £14,883.

Other expenses include those to PILAS (£4,007) that mainly correspond to the organization of their annual conference that took place in Amsterdam; accounting services for £1,200; a fee of £300 for the UCML membership; £23 for SLAS elections; and £2,880 for website and social media expenses. We also paid an advance of £3,221 for catering expenses for our 2025 conference in Bristol.

Conclusion

A total income of £92,498 and expenditure of £93,079 left a deficit of £581 for the year. However, this is due to the timing of outgoing payments for 2 years' worth of our Postdoc awards (£6000 per year) and the fact our 2024 conference income (of £5,948) was received in 2025. SLAS also holds reserves of £344,355 to support our objectives in the future.

Approved by Trustees on 11/04/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Catriona McAllister and Karol Valderrama Burgos (SLAS Co-Treasurers)

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report has been approved on the 8th July 2025 by the independent examiner Simon Young FCA (Aysgarth Chartered Accountants) to confirm that it complies with both the accounting records and the accounting requirements of the Charities Commission.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Society for Latin American Studies

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Society for Latin American Studies

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Society for Latin American Studies (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Simon Young FCA

Aysgarth Chartered Accountants
Suite 3b
Kings House
1 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HH

Date: 8 July 2025

THE SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 278817

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Legal and administrative information

Charity number: 278817

Principal address:

Dr Marieke Riethof (President 2023-2025) / Prof Sarah Bowskill (Vice-President 2023-2025). Queen's, University Belfast, School of Arts, English, University Road BELFAST, BT7 1NN. +44 28 9097 1141.

Email: mriethof@liverpool.ac.uk.

Organisation

The Society is run by the board of trustees, following the provisions made in our Constitution (<https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution>), made up of the following persons for the year 2023:

Officers

President, Dr Marieke Riethof, University of Liverpool

Vice-President, Prof Sarah Bowskill, Queen's University Belfast

Treasurer, Dr Jannine Poletti-Hughes, University of Liverpool

Secretary, Dr Eamon McCarthy, University of Glasgow

Ordinary Committee Members

Dr Catriona McAllister, University of Reading

Dr Cara Levey, University College Cork

Dr Paul Merchant, University of Bristol

Dr Rebecca Ogden, University of Sheffield

Dr Karol Valderrama-Burgos, University of St Andrews

Dr Peter Watson, University of Leeds

Ex-officio Members

Prof Thea Pitman, Past-President, University of Leeds

Dr Juan Pablo Ferrero, Coordinating Editor, Bulletin of Latin American Studies, University of Bath

Ms Ana Lucía Pelaez Echeverría, President of Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge

Prof Barbara Hogenboom, Conference Organiser, University of Amsterdam.

Independent examiner: Simon Young FCA, Aysgarth Chartered Accountants, Suite 3b, Kings House, 1 King Street, Leeds LS1 2HH

Banker: Natwest Westminster Bank Plc, Chatham Customer Service Centre, Western Avenue, Waterside Court, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RT

Objectives of the Charity in the Public Benefit

The objectives of the Society, as stated in our Constitution (<https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution>) are to advance and promote the study of Latin America within the United Kingdom, and in particular to:

- a. sponsor an annual conference for Latin Americanists.
- b. sponsor or co-sponsor such other conferences or meetings as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate.
- c. publish a periodical bulletin, the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* (BLAR), the ownership of the copyright to the content and title of which will be retained by the Society.
- d. maintain a website for the Society and publish other publications as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate; and
- e. co-operate with public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.

Review of activities

Activities in calendar year 2023 included the following:

- a. Our highly successful annual conference was held at Queen's University Belfast on 30-31 March 2023, with a conference dinner and reception held at the Great Hall.
- b. We supported the activities of PILAS, Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, including the running of their annual conference held at Queen's University Belfast on 29 March 2023.
- c. We also sponsored a variety of events and awarded grants and prizes on all our normal schemes (<https://www.slas.org.uk/funding>) and introduced a new funding opportunity: the UK Scholar's Research Support Grant.
- d. We awarded £39,688 in grants and prizes. Details of each of the funding schemes and recipients can be found in the Secretary's Report (<https://www.slas.org.uk/annual-reports>) for 2024, which captures activity for 2023.
- e. We have continued to maintain our website, as well as develop our social media presence on Twitter/X and LinkedIn with investment in regular posting on behalf of SLAS and our journal.
- f. We have continued to co-operate with all other public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.
- g. We furthermore undertook the following additional activities during the year:
 1. updated the workflows for our journal and increased its social media presence.
 2. updated our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.
 3. updated our Climate Action Policy.

Plans for the future

Overall our focus is on maintaining the core activities of the Society as listed above (A to E) in a fast changing environment where our most important income stream (the publication of our scholarly journal, the *Bulletin of Latin American Studies*) is likely to reduce by between 20 and 25% over the next couple of years. At the same time we remain open to all viable means to promote the study of Latin America in the UK.

Reserves policy

Our policy is to keep in reserve assets to at least the value of £100,000 representing the normal maximum annual turnover.

Risk Review

The academic publishing market is changing fast with the shift to Open Access publishing and this impacts SLAS directly as the vast majority of our income comes from our journal. We have nonetheless managed to negotiate a new contract with the publisher Wiley that promises to maintain our core income at a good level over the next five years, thus enabling us to continue our normal range of activities in support of the Society's objectives. We are nonetheless attentive to the need to ensure that the journal is managed in a financially prudent way going forward. We are also able to alter the number of grants that we offer each year to ensure that expenditure matches income as closely as possible. We also have healthy reserves as we go into this period of change.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustee(s) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Riethof', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Dr Marieke Riethof
SLAS President, 2023-25

Treasurer's Report Year ended 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Bulletin of Latin American Research+Conference	87,934	140,305
Donations	362	310
Interests received	0	774
Total incoming resources	<u>88,296</u>	<u>141,389</u>
reimbursements	0	1,033
Total incoming resources (with reimbursements)	<u>88,296</u>	<u>142,422</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	45,556	40,933
Support & governance costs	55,503	14,509
Total resources expended	<u>101,059</u>	<u>55,442</u>
Net incoming resources	-12,763	86,980
Total funds brought forward	357,699	270,719
Total funds carried forward	<u>344,936</u>	<u>357,699</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

BALANCE SHEET

	2023	2022
	£	£
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash current account	184,936	282,699
Cash savings account	<u>160,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
Net assets	<u>344,936</u>	<u>357,699</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	<u>344,936</u>	<u>357,699</u>

Notes

Income

The main source of income for SLAS (83.3% in 2023) came from the contract with Wiley, representing a share of the profits from BLAR for publication year 2022, coupled with the membership payments collected on behalf of SLAS in that year.

Donations for £362 come from standing orders from previous memberships that have not been cancelled. Interests for the two savings accounts (i.e. Skipton and Nationwide) were not received until January 2024, so are not registered in this report.

An income of £14,354 came from the conference in Belfast.

Expenditure

The main items of expenditure for 2023 correspond to Prizes and Grants, for £39,688. This is £5,245 more than for 2022. We paid for 6 Scholars grants to attend our annual conference (£9,065), the Catedra SLAS (£600), 2 Post-doc awards (£4,000), 15 PG+PD research support grants (£14,010), 17 PG+PD conference grants (6,671), 4 Seminars/Conferences grants, including one from 2022 (£1,900) and, one UK scholar research grant (£3,000). Additionally, we paid for the use of the gather software space (£281). The total expenditure for grants was less than budgeted by £10,612 mainly because there were two unawarded UK scholar research grants, one unawarded Post-doc grant and some grants for PG&PD research support and for seminars/conferences that were not fully spent by the grantees.

With regards to expenses by BLAR, the main expenditure arose from the payment to the BLAR associate editor which corresponded to 2022 and 2023 (£33,936). This payment is made through the University of Liverpool and the delay in the payment for 2022 was due to their delay to send the invoice. A payment of editors' honoraria was made for each of the 6 BLAR editors totalling £6,000 (£1,000 each) and a pro-rata amount of £250 for an editor that left the editorial board. Three prizes totalling £1,400 (i.e. BLAR article, Blakemore and Master's) were awarded by the BLAR editors. BLAR associate editor expenses correspond to £30 for ink cartridges.

Expenses by SLAS committee members, BLAR editors and PILAS Chair to attend the AGM within the annual conference in Belfast totalled £10,712.

Other expenses include those to PILAS (£3,567) that mainly correspond to the organization of their annual conference that took place in Belfast, accounting services for £780, a fee of £105 for the UCML membership, £25 for SLAS elections, £14 for the standing conference and a payment of £1,887 for website and social media expenses.

Conclusion

'Ordinary' income of £87,934 and expenditure of £101,059 left a deficit of £12,763 for the year. However, the deficit is explained by the payment to the BLAR associate editor that corresponded to 2022. If this payment was to be excluded from this financial year, SLAS

would have presented a surplus of £5,939. Also, it is worth noting that SLAS has built reserves for £344,936 that will support the continuation of SLAS objectives in the future.

Approved by Trustees on 03/05/2024 and signed on their behalf by

Jannine Poletti-Hughes (SLAS Treasurer)

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report has been approved on the 14th November 2024 by the independent examiner Simon Young FCA (Aysgarth Chartered Accountants) to confirm that it complies with both the accounting records and the accounting requirements of the Charities Commission.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Society for Latin American Studies

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Society for Latin American Studies

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Society for Latin American Studies (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Simon Young FCA

Aysgarth Chartered Accountants
Suite 3b
Kings House
1 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HH

Date: 14 November 2024

THE SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 278817

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report 31 December 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Legal and administrative information

Charity number: 278817

Principal address:

Prof Thea Pitman, President (2021-23): School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT. Email: t.pitman@leeds.ac.uk.

Organisation

The Society is run by the board of trustees, following the provisions made in our Constitution (<https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution>), made up of the following persons for the year 2022:

Officers

President, Prof Thea Pitman, University of Leeds
Vice-President, Dr Marieke Riethof, University of Liverpool
Treasurer, Dr Jannine Poletti-Hughes, University of Liverpool
Secretary, Dr Eamon McCarthy, University of Glasgow

Ordinary Committee Members

Dr Catriona McAllister, University of Reading
Dr Paul Merchant, University of Bristol
Dr Eve Hayes de Kalaf, School of Advanced Study, University of London
Dr Rebecca Ogden, University of Kent
Dr Karol Valderrama-Burgos, University of St Andrews
Dr Peter Watson, University of Leeds

Ex-officio Members

Prof Patience Schell, Past-President, University of Aberdeen
Prof Ann Varley, Coordinating Editor, Bulletin of Latin American Studies, University College London
Mr Oliver Wilson-Nunn, President of Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge
Dr Juan Pablo Ferrero, Conference Organiser, University of Bath.

Independent examiner: Malcolm Walker, Walker Broadbent Associates Limited, Lencett House, 45 Boroughgate, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1AG

Banker: Natwest Westminster Bank Plc, Chatham Customer Service Centre, Western Avenue, Waterside Court, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RT

Objectives of the Charity in the Public Benefit

The objectives of the Society, as stated in our Constitution (<https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution>) are to advance and promote the study of Latin America within the United Kingdom, and in particular to:

- a. sponsor an annual conference for Latin Americanists.
- b. sponsor or co-sponsor such other conferences or meetings as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate.
- c. publish a periodical bulletin, the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* (BLAR), the ownership of the copyright to the content and title of which will be retained by the Society.
- d. maintain a website for the Society and publish other publications as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate; and
- e. co-operate with public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.

Review of activities

Activities in calendar year 2022 included the following:

- a. Our highly successful annual conference was held at University of Bath on 21 and 22 April 2022, with a reception held at the Roman Baths.
- b. We supported the activities of PILAS, Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, including the running of their annual conference held at the University of Cambridge on 7-8 July 2022.
- c. We also sponsored a variety of events and awarded grants and prizes on all our normal schemes (<https://www.slas.org.uk/funding>) and introduced a new funding opportunity: the UK Scholar's Research Support Grant.
- d. We awarded just over £34,000 in grants and prizes. Details of each of the funding schemes and recipients can be found in the Secretary's Report (<https://www.slas.org.uk/annual-reports>) for 2023, which captures activity for 2022.
- e. We signed a new contract with Wiley for the publication of the *Bulletin of Latin American Studies* covering the period 2023-27. We also negotiated the reimbursement of Society membership fees covering the period of the previous contract (2018-22). These fees are handled by Wiley and were due to be given in full to the Society according to the terms of the contract yet had been retained by the publisher in error.
- f. We have continued to maintain our website, as well as develop our Twitter presence with investment in regular tweeting.
- g. We have continued to co-operate with all other public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.
- h. We furthermore undertook the following additional activities during the year:

1. updated our Constitution at the AGM held at the University of Bath on 21 March 2022, in particular to simplify it and bring it up-to-date with the operation of the Society as it has evolved, particular during the Covid-19 pandemic, and to integrate contemporary EDI principles and set term limits on all trustee roles.
2. conducted a survey of the needs of our membership to better inform decision making.
3. updated our Climate Action Policy in the light of the above.
4. and we were successful in securing funding, handled via the University of Bristol (PI: Paul Merchant), from the AHRC-SNSF links scheme, to support PGR and ECR links between UK and Swiss-based Latin Americanists.

Plans for the future

Overall our focus is on maintaining the core activities of the Society as listed above (A to E) in a fast changing environment where our most important income stream (the publication of our scholarly journal, the *Bulletin of Latin American Studies*) is likely to reduce by between 20 and 25% over the next couple of years. At the same time we remain open to all viable means to promote the study of Latin America in the UK.

Reserves policy

Our policy is to keep in reserve assets to at least the value of £100,000 representing the normal maximum annual turnover.

Risk Review

The academic publishing market is changing fast with the shift to Open Access publishing and this impacts SLAS directly as the vast majority of our income comes from our journal. We have nonetheless managed to negotiate a new contract with the publisher Wiley that promises to maintain our core income at a good level over the next five years, thus enabling us to continue our normal range of activities in support of the Society's objectives. We are nonetheless attentive to the need to ensure that the journal is managed in a financially prudent way going forward. We are also able to alter the number of grants that we offer each year to ensure that expenditure matches income as closely as possible. We also have healthy reserves as we go into this period of change.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

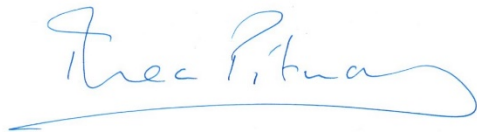
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustee(s) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Prof. Thea Pitman, University of Leeds
SLAS President, 2021-23**

Treasurer's Report Year ended 31st December 2022

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Bulletin of Latin American Research	140,305	97,964
Donations	310	518
Interests received	774	263
Total incoming resources	<u>141,389</u>	<u>98,745</u>
reimbursements	1,033	4,852
Total incoming resources (with reimbursements)	<u>142,422</u>	<u>103,596</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	40,933	39,694
Support & governance costs	14,509	36,204
Total resources expended	<u>55,442</u>	<u>75,898</u>
Net incoming resources	86,980	27,698
Total funds brought forward	270,719	243,021
Total funds carried forward	<u>357,699</u>	<u>270,719</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022				
BALANCE SHEET				
	2022			2021
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash current account		282,699		195,719
Cash savings account		<u>75,000</u>		<u>75,000</u>
Net assets		<u>357,699</u>		<u>270,719</u>
Represented by				
Unrestricted funds		<u>357,699</u>		<u>270,719</u>

Notes

Income

The main source of income for SLAS (92.5%) comes from the contract with Wiley, representing a share of the profits from BLAR for publication year 2021, coupled with the membership payments collected on behalf of SLAS in that year. The £130,739 received from Wiley this year includes an additional £32,574 from memberships' revenue backlog corresponding to other periods.

Donations for £310 come from standing orders from previous memberships that have not been cancelled and the interest payment of £774 are from the £75,000 savings that are in a Skipton account.

A surplus of £7,010 come from the conference in Bath (£9,566 minus £2,556 of costs).

At the beginning of 2021 there were ATM withdrawals of £6,000 to be used for business of the Society by the previous treasurer. As these did not take place because of the pandemic, a total reimbursement of these withdrawals (minus £115 of expenses) were paid by the previous treasurer, where the final payment of £1,033 was received at the beginning of 2022.

Expenditure

The main items of expenditure for 2022 correspond to Prizes and Grants, for £34,443. We paid for 5 Scholars grants to attend our annual conference (£7,208), the Catedra SLAS (£600), 3 Post-doc awards (£6,000), 14 out of 15 PG+PD research support grants awarded (£13,464), 8 PG+PD conference grants (3,000) and 5 Seminars/Conferences grants (£2,352). Additionally, we paid for 2 travel bursaries that corresponded to 2020 and had been unclaimed by then (£1,668) and for the use of the gather software space (£123). The total expenditure for grants was less than budgeted by £7,557, mainly because 3 grants have not been claimed, the gather software was used less than expected and some claims for reimbursement of expenses were lower than the corresponding grant.

With regard to expenses by BLAR, the main expenditure arose from the BLAR editors' honoraria for each of the 5 BLAR editors totalling £5,000 (£1,000 each). BLAR expenses correspond to traveling costs and subsistence for one editorial meeting that took place at the Bath Conference and the Master's Prize of £600. Note that expenses from editorial assistance (£21,000) that corresponds to salary payment through the University of Liverpool was not invoiced during this period.

Therefore, only £2,000 were paid for overtime at the beginning of the year to the associate editor.

Committee expenses were £4,602 that corresponded to expenses paid to committee members to attend the AGM within the annual conference in Bath, and also for expenses of three of the officers for a previous meeting in Bath that took place in January in preparation for the annual conference.

Other expenses include those to PILAS (£3,884) that correspond to the organization of their annual conference that took place at the University of Cambridge, a fee of £100 for the UCML membership and a payment of £1,771 for 72.25 hours@£20 to a professional assistant (Christy Palmer £1,445) + £302 for website assistance and a donation of £50 to "Sailfree" in memory of Roberto Espindola - President of the Society for Latin American Studies, 1989-1991.

Conclusion

'Ordinary' income of £142,422 (£141,389+£1,033) and expenditure of £55,442 left a surplus of £86,980 for the year. However, it is not expected that this pattern will continue as the income from Wiley in 2023 will stand at £80,792, payments to the University of Liverpool for editorial assistance are expected to be paid and the availability of a new grant scheme for UK scholars that has been established (3@£3,000) . These aspects have been considered in budgeting for 2023.

Approved by Trustees on 29th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by
Jannine Poletti-Hughes (SLAS Treasurer)

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report has been approved on the 11th of May 2023 by the independent examiner (Walker Broadbent Associates Limited) to confirm that it complies with both the accounting records and the accounting requirements of the Charities Commission.

SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Independent Examiners' Report
For the year ended 31 December 2022

I report to the Trustees on the Accounts of the Society For Latin American Studies for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trust's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

To enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached I draw your attention to the following matter:

The Society accounts for income from John Wiley, the publisher of the Bulletin For Latin American Studies, as it is received not as it is earned. At 31 December 2022 the amount owed to the Society by John Wiley in respect of 2022 income not yet paid over was £14,358.



Malcolm V Walker B Mus FCA CTA

Walker Broadbent Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants
Lencett House
45 Boroughgate
Otley
LS21 1AG

12 May 2023

THE SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 278817

Accounts



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Society for Latin American Studies

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

25 February 2022

Name:

Antoni Kapcia

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Former SLAS President

Address:

2 Vickers Street

Nottingham

NG3 4LD

Treasurer's report to the 31st of December 2021

Balance 01/01/2021 168,021

Income 2021

Wiley	97,964
Donations	518
Interest Skipton	263
	98,745
ATM withdrawals reimbursement	4,852

Expenditure

Item	Budgeted	Incurred	Difference
<u>Annual conference</u>			
virtual conference	5,000	9,736	-4,736
	5,000	9,736	-4,736
<u>Prizes and grants</u>			
SLAS Conference LA Scholars' Grants	0	0	0
Catedra SLAS	600	600	0
Post-doc awards (up to 3@2,000)	6,000	8,000	-2,000
PG+PD travel grant (up to 15@ 1000)	15,000	13,000	2,000
PG research support grants (up to 10@500)	5,000	2,357	2,643
Seminars/Conference	4,000	3,368	632
	30,600	27,325	3,275
<u>BLAR</u>			
BLAR editors expenses	4,000	974	3,026
BLAR editorial assistant + overtime	24,200	20,356	3,844
BLAR editors honoraria	6,000	6,000	0
BLAR translations	1,700		1,700
BLAR prize	200	0	200
Blakemore Prize	600	600	0
	36,700	27,930	8,770
<u>Committee expenses</u>			
Committee expenses	5,000	406	4,594
	5,000	406	4,594
<u>Others</u>			
Contingency	7,050		7,050
PILAS	5,000	642	4,358
Standing Conference	250		250
Subscriptions	200	100	100
Website/Social Media	1,500	1,767	-267
withdrawals to be recovered		6,000	-6,000
Gather facelift		1,928	-1,928
	14,000	10,436	3,564
Total	91,300	75,835	15,465
Current balance 31/12/2021	195,782		
Skipton account	75,000		
	270,782		

Notes

Income

The main source of income for SLAS (99%) comes from the contract with Wiley, representing a share of the profits from BLAR for publication year 2020, coupled with the membership payments collected on behalf of SLAS in that year.

Donations for £518 come from standing orders from previous memberships that have not been cancelled and the interest payment of £263 are from the £75,000 savings that are in a Skipton account.

At the beginning of 2021 there were ATM withdrawals of £6,000 (see Others in Expenditure) to be used for business of the Society by the previous treasurer. As these did not take place, a reimbursement of £4,852 and a cheque for £1,089 were paid by the previous treasurer. The latter cheque was rejected for not having a date and we are expecting for a repayment of this amount. The difference of £60 corresponds to expenses made by the previous treasurer in transport and postal charges from SLAS business.

Expenditure

The main items of expenditure for 2021 correspond to BLAR and Prizes and Grants, for £27,930 and £27,325, respectively.

With regards to BLAR, the main expenditure arose from editorial assistance (£20,356) with consists of a salary payment through the University of Liverpool of £18,356 and £2,000 for overtime paid at the beginning of the year. We paid £1,000 for editors' honoraria for each of the 6 BLAR editors totalling £6,000. BLAR expenses correspond to traveling costs and subsistence for editorial meetings (3 in total) and stationary for the assistant editor. The Blakemore Prize of £600 was awarded to Charlotte Eaton.

With respect to Prizes and grants, we awarded the Catedra SLAS (£600), 4 Post-doc awards (one more than budgeted in recognition of the exceptionally high standards of applications) of £2,000 each. We awarded 13 out of 15 PG+PD travel grants totalling £13,000. There were 5 awarded PG research support grants totalling £2,357 and 3 grants for Seminars/Conferences for £3,368. The total expenditure for grants was less than budgeted by £3,275, mainly because there were less applicants for various of the categories as a result of Covid-19 restrictions to travel that impacted on field research and organization of research events.

The annual (virtual) conference incurred an expense of £9,736, which was £4,736 more than budgeted as a result of expenses for software development that supported a virtual gathering. This difference was almost 100% compensated by the reduction of committee expenses, which reached only £406 (transport costs to collect paperwork from previous treasurer and sorting new accounts). Committee expenses were low as all meetings throughout the year were virtual using the same software that was acquired for the conference and that is now available for us to use.

Other expenses were to PILAS (£642), £324 for a Zoom license, £381 for the use of Gather (virtual software) for their conference and £60 for vouchers for the conference speaker(s). As their conference took place online, the expenditure was less than budgeted by £4,358. The fee

of £100 was for the UCML membership. Expenditure of £1,767 consisted of a payment of 72 hours@£20 to a professional assistant (Christy Palmer £1,440) + £212 for website assistance. Payment of the web domain (£60) and a translation to Mapudungun version of our welcome statement on the webpage of £51.

The Gather facelift was an additional payment (£1,928) for the software that we acquired for the conference to make it more suitable for our needs.

Conclusion

‘Ordinary’ income of £98,754 and expenditure of £75,835 left a surplus of £22,919 for the year. However, it is not expected that this pattern will continue as expenses will increase for 2022 as a result of going back to face-to-face conferences (SLAS and PILAS) and the potential reduction of Wiley’s payment in future years. These aspects have been considered in budgeting for 2022.

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Independent Examiner – Prof. Antoni Kapcia - has approved this report and has signed the necessary certificate for the Charity Commission, confirming that it complies with both the accounting records and the accounting requirements of the Commission.

Jannine Poletti-Hughes (SLAS Treasurer), 25th February 2022

President’s Report to SLAS AGM, 21 April 2022

Thank you for coming along to this AGM; the first in-person AGM since 2019; and thank you for reading this report if you’re catching up afterwards. We really appreciate your taking the time to engage with the running of the Society. The AGM is an important opportunity for the Society’s officers and the *BLAR* editors to provide an account of our activities over the last 12 months, as well as for you to ask any questions in relation to those activities. And on this specific occasion, we also need you to debate and cast your vote in relation to the new Constitution, about which I will say more shortly.

This is also our first conference with an in-person dimension since the University of Leicester conference in 2019, as we had to cancel the 2020 in-person conference at the University of Amsterdam because of the pandemic, with the SLAS committee and the team at CEDLA pulling together a replacement virtual conference in record time. And in 2021, because of concerns with what travel and other restrictions would still be in place at the time of the event, we also opted for a fully virtual conference, this time run entirely by the SLAS committee.

In order to facilitate some of the same opportunities for socialisation that an in-person conference offers and that standard platforms such as Zoom or Teams do not, the committee elected to invest in having a virtual conference site designed on Gather, with a view to being able to continue to use the site for other SLAS-sponsored events such as the Digital Humanities group led by Patience Schell, as well as committee meetings, thereafter. Indeed, some of you will be using the platform to access this year’s hybrid conference as well. While getting to grips with a new platform and new ways of socialising in the context of an academic conference offered some teething problems in the first instance, we are hopeful that

this year's conference will really see optimal use being made out of the platform, working in harmony with the impressive, 'state-of-the-art' facilities at the University of Bath.

The 2021 conference also offered us an ideal opportunity to experiment with other possibilities that going virtual can offer. We thus ran it in afternoons and evenings over five days rather than the usual two-day in-person event. This allowed better access for participants based in Latin America and also aimed to combat the fatigue that comes with many hours spent on 'Zoom calls'. We also kept the costs of attendance to an absolute minimum and used the opportunity to make some of the events open to the general public in order to make the event as inclusive as possible. All in all, we were very pleased with what we managed to achieve last year, and my thanks go, in particular, to the conference team – Patience Schell, Marieke Riethof, Eamon McCarthy, Paul Merchant and Jannine Poletti-Hughes – as well as to the University of Aberdeen CPD office who supported the running of the conference.

This year sees us experiment with another new format – a fully hybrid conference over two days, with all panels, roundtables and keynotes accessible both in-person on campus at the University of Bath and via our Gather platform. This is no mean feat and I'm sure everyone will join me in congratulating the Bath team – Juan Pablo Ferrero Penny Miles and Mariana Lucía Villegas Monroy – for all their hard work in making this happen. The conference is entitled 'Latin America in Times of Political Mistrust and Global Pandemic', and it will be running just over 70 panels, as well as other formats of gathering, across the full range of different disciplines that Latin American studies embraces. It bodes to be a highly memorable and much needed social and intellectual highlight in the SLAS calendar.

Looking to the future, our next conference in 2023 will almost certainly be hybrid in some way (host institution TBC), in order to continue to draw on what we have learned over the last three years in terms of both inclusivity and thinking through the balance between the need to meet in person and our commitment as academics to reducing our carbon footprints. As a committee we are continuing to debate this issue in the light of our Climate Action Plan. Overall, we aim for a significant reduction in academic travel across all of our activities, coupled with maximum benefit for our members. In the light of this both SLAS committee and *BLAR* editorial meetings have shifted to virtual formats for all but one meeting per year, normally timed to coincide with any in-person annual conference. This also has the advantage of saving significant amounts of the Society's income for more productive use supporting the SLAS community. We are mindful however of the value of in-person networking opportunities provided by in-person conferences, particularly for PGRs and ECRs, and are thus looking to continue to encourage hybrid annual conferences that combine SLAS and PiLAS, rather than running two separate conferences per year with in-person elements. We of course welcome approaches from institutions wishing to host future annual conferences, and we would be open to proposals for fully virtual events where this is deemed to be advantageous by the hosting institution, for example, where that institution is based outside of the UK.

Behind the scenes, the SLAS committee has had quite a busy year. In May 2021, after a great many years on the committee and at least sixteen as Treasurer, John Fisher had to step down because of ill health. While I was able to keep things ticking over for a while as second signatory on our accounts, we were extremely fortunate that committee member Jannine Poletti-Hughes, Senior Lecturer in Accounting and Finance at the University of Liverpool,

was willing and very able to step into John's shoes at short notice. Jannine was elected as interim treasurer by the SLAS committee in June 2021 so that she could take over the running of our accounts and we are delighted that she has been willing to stand for election as treasurer in the current round of elections to SLAS committee and officer roles. She has also made good progress on developing a new expenses policy and moving us onto online banking for easier payment of grants to SLAS members. It has been hard to have had to say goodbye to John under such difficult circumstances, and we wish him the very best and thank him heartily for his many years of service to SLAS. We would also like to extend our thanks to Antoni Kapcia who is also now stepping down as auditor for SLAS's accounts after five years of service. Going forward, our accounts will be audited by an accountancy firm whose name will be displayed on the SLAS website in due course.

The Treasurer's report will provide all the details of our finances for the past year. It is worth highlighting here that we have been fortunate that expenses caused by the ongoing pandemic have been offset by savings elsewhere. For example, running our own conference cost us a significant amount of money, but this was offset by the lack of travel expenses for SLAS committee members and *BLAR* editors, meaning that we have been able to continue to provide the usual level of support to the SLAS community through the funding opportunities that we offer. SLAS finances have been stable for quite some time, with our capital reserves moderately increasing year on year. However, changes in our main income stream – the publication of *BLAR* – are starting to have an impact on this comfortable status quo. Plan S and the requirement by many UK funders to move towards fully open-access publishing will see gradual reductions to the income derived from publishing academic journals and this clearly has a knock-on effect on the financial wellbeing of scholarly societies that depend on their journals to fund their running costs and other activities. SLAS is in a strong position going into this situation. However, it will require careful stewardship over the coming years to ensure that we continue to thrive. This will entail continuing to look hard at expenses incurred in the running of the Society in order to have the least impact possible on our ability to offer funding opportunities to SLAS members.

This brings me to *BLAR* itself. While Ann Varley as Coordinating Editor will offer you more detail from the perspective of the editorial team in her report, the key issue that I want to report on here is the fact that our five-year contract with the publisher, Wiley, expires at the end of 2022. While a final decision has not yet been taken, the need to renegotiate the contract, in the context of the radical changes in the scholarly publishing landscape outlined above, has given us an opportunity to consider all options. SLAS members should be reassured that, whoever publishes *BLAR* going forward, the best decision possible will be taken to ensure the Society remains as financially secure as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Ann, to the other editorial team members – Ainhoa Montoya, Juan Pablo Ferrero, Penny Miles and Ed King –, and to the *BLAR* editorial assistant, Ken Lestrangle, for their continuing hard work in editing the *Bulletin* for us, particularly in a context of such significant change to publishing, and to related working practices. I would also like to thank Sarah Ritchie, Associate Journals Publishing Manager at Wiley, for her infinite patience as we work our way through these issues, and Jo Crow, who stepped down as *BLAR* editor in the course of 2021 after four years, for all her hard work.

One project that the SLAS Committee has worked on over the last year has been the revision of the Society's Constitution. While we will present these changes and offer the opportunity

for debate and a vote elsewhere in this AGM, I would just like to outline the reason for the proposed changes. Overwhelmingly, they seek to simplify, clarify and up-date the way the operation of the Society is presented in the Constitution (now also combined with the Standing Orders), and, importantly, to revise it in order to make it more inclusive. Changing a constitution is never something to be taken lightly, and it is also a significant undertaking in terms of work. However, I am grateful to the Committee for their support in this, particularly to the officers – Eamon McCarthy, Marieke Riethof and Jannine Poletti-Hughes –, and to the EDI working group members – Katy Jenkins and Rebecca Ogden – for their sound advice and helpful suggestions. I would hope that the assembled SLAS members were comfortable in supporting the proposed changes.

PiLAS, the Postgraduate branch of SLAS, has continued to thrive over the past academic year, with Oliver Wilson-Nunn as President and an organising committee based at the Universities of Cambridge, KCL, UCL, and Birkbeck. Some of the regular PiLAS activities such as the archives and collections workshop have managed to return in-person with the relaxation of Covid restrictions, yet the reach of PiLAS has been enhanced by the regular virtual work-in-progress sessions. The PiLAS annual conference, entitled ‘Repair, Resistance, and Resilience in Latin America’, is scheduled for 7-8 July in a hybrid format with the in-person element at the University of Cambridge. PiLAS’s website is now fully integrated into the SLAS website to improve continuity and lessen the burden on each year’s PiLAS team, and the group also has Twitter and Facebook accounts which work very well to promote their activities. Discussion is ongoing about how we might productively combine in-person PiLAS and SLAS conferences to reduce travel but optimise networking opportunities for PGRs.

As President of SLAS I have represented the organisation in the context of national organisations and associations, notably the UK Conference of Area Studies Associations, the Arts and Humanities Alliance and the Alliance of Modern Languages, Area Studies and Linguistics Subject Associations UK. I have also weighed in on behalf of the Society to support fellow Latin Americanists whose working conditions and jobs have been under threat, often working in concert with Prof. Catherine Boyle, president of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland, in this respect. I have also been kindly represented at other events by SLAS committee members such as Eve Hayes de Kalaf who attended an ECR-focused event at the British Academy on our behalf.

As this report testifies, the SLAS committee has been busy in the last year, but it also demonstrates how SLAS can and does work for the field in the UK, working to ensure that we can help our members to thrive as Latin Americanists. I want to pay tribute to my colleagues on the committee, whose commitment over the last year has ensured the smooth running of the Society. While I have mentioned many of them by name already for their various different contributions, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to Jannine Poletti-Hughes for stepping in as Treasurer when we needed her most, to Marieke Riethof for her endless support and advice in the Vice-President role, to Patience Schell as wise Past-President and Gather ‘champion’, to Eamon McCarthy for being an amazingly efficient and knowledgeable Secretary, and to Geraldine Lublin who has supported him in editing the website in recent months. Both Geraldine and Katy Jenkins will be stepping down from the SLAS committee after two years and eight years respectively. We would also like to thank Katy for her hard work over the years, particularly in relation to EDI initiatives. We will

shortly be joined by Peter Watson, Catriona McAllister and Karol Valderrama-Burgos as ordinary committee members and we look forward to working with them. And finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to Christy Palmer who provides technical support for the SLAS website and also runs the SLAS Twitter account.

Thank you all for coming along to the AGM and/or reading this report. I hope those of you at the conference here in Bath have a wonderful and productive couple of days, and that everyone present, in person or virtually, returns to their 'day jobs' restored and inspired.

Thea Pitman, SLAS president, t.pitman@leeds.ac.uk

AGM 2022

Secretary's Report: Eamon McCarthy

Thanks to all the SLAS committee for their support this year.

SLAS Grant Schemes and Awards

A significant percentage of SLAS income continues to be reinvested in the form of grants and awards. This year, we have created a number of new awards in response to the pandemic and have been flexible around when awards can be spent.

SLAS Postdoctoral Research Award

This is a scheme that offers £2000 to support the work of postdoctoral researchers.

- Brigid Lynch
- Lorena Sanchez
- Giulia Torino

Postgraduate & Postdoctoral SLAS Conference Awards

These awards support PG & PD members.

- Molly Avery (LSE)
- Liliana Chavez (Berlin)
- Giovanna Gini (Queen Mary University of London)
- Bastián González-Bustamante (Oxford)
- Itzel San Roman (Sheffield)
- Jessica Sequeira (Cambridge)
- Erika Paula Teichert (Cambridge)
- Floor van der Hout (Northumbria)

Latin American Scholars Awards

These awards support scholars based in Latin America to allow them to present at the SLAS conference and build networks amongst SLAS members.

- Esther Solano (Brazil)
- María Fernanda Carrillo (Mexico)
- Ana Natalucci (Argentina)
- Jorgelina Loza (Argentina)
- Raul Perez (Cuba)

Conference and Event and Seminar Grants Support

A total of £4,000 is available to support SLAS members organise events in their own institutions. This year awards were made to:

- Andrea Aramburu Villavisencio (Cambridge), Comics and the Global South (£660)
- Elizabeth Chant (Warwick), Climate, Capital and Tourism in the Americas (£700)
- Maria Chiara D'Argenio (UCL), Indigenous Ethnicities on Screen (£345)
- Bethan Frisk (Bristol), Captive Mobilities: Slavery, Freedom, and Knowledge Production in Latin America and Beyond (£1000)
- Tori Holmes (Queen's Belfast), V International Conference of REBRAC (£800)
- Eve Kalyva (Kent), Working with the works of León Ferrari (£495)

Blakemore Prize

The Blakemore Prize was not awarded in 2022.

SLAS Masters Prize

This is a newly created prize, which was awarded to Isobel Jones (Cambridge), 'Embodying *escrivência*, wake-work, and Black womanhood in Conceição Evaristo's *Poemas da recordação e outros movimentos* (2008)'.

PG & PD Research Support Grants

Applications for this scheme for 2022 are still being assessed.

Last year's (2021) recipients were:

- Paulina Caro Troncoso (Edinburgh)
- Pietra Cepero Rua Perez (Durham)
- Susanna Corona (UCL)
- Carlos Cruz Mosquera (QMUL)
- Giovanna Gini (QMUL)
- Nicolas Gomez Baeza (Warwick)

- Valentina Infante Batiste (Oxford)
- Nuni Jorgensen (QMUL)
- Jelani Munroe (Oxford)

Cátedra SLAS

The deadline for applications for 2022 is 20 May.

The inaugural 2021 Cátedra SLAS was Paul Merchant (Bristol).

Elections to the SLAS Committee

The Secretary reported on the outcome of the 2022 elections.

The following posts were available:

- Treasurer: two-year post
- Secretary: two-year post
- 3 x Ordinary Members: standard two-year post

By the deadline, the required number of nominations had been received for all of the vacancies, and nominees were thus appointed to the posts.

Treasurer: Jannine Poletti-Hughes (Liverpool)

Secretary: Eamon McCarthy (Glasgow)

3 x Ordinary Members: Catriona McAllister (Reading), Karol Valderrama-Burgos (QUB), Pete Watson (Leeds)

THE SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 278817

Accounts

AGM 2021

Secretary's Report: Eamon McCarthy

Thanks to all the SLAS committee for their support this year.

SLAS Grant Schemes and Awards

A significant percentage of SLAS income continues to be reinvested in the form of grants and awards. This year, we have created a number of new awards in response to the pandemic and have been flexible around when awards can be spent.

Last year, I reported on the awards we had allocated, however in a number of cases, the money allocated was returned to SLAS. In other cases, we have been flexible with when money can be spent. This is an update on what happened with the awards made in 2020:

- Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Travel Grants – some recipients were not able to use these awards, while others have had the period to claim back the money extended to October 2021. The extension is offered on the basis that the award is used for the same project detailed in the application.
- Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Conference Grants & Latin American Scholar Grants – these were made to attend the SLAS2020 conference, which ran virtually in the end. Where a recipient had incurred expenses that could not be refunded, SLAS covered these costs up to the value of the grant awarded. Many of these awards were not spent because of the pandemic. Unspent funds were redirected to the COVID-19 Hardship Fund.
- Conference and Event and Seminar Grants -one event had already happened before the pandemic struck. One other event was cancelled because of the pandemic. Funding for the other three events was carried forward.

We will not be running the Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Conference Grants or the Latin American Scholar Grants this year as these schemes are normally used to support travel to the annual conference. The money usually allocated to these schemes has been spent on the virtual conference (Gather Space and abstract management via Oxford Abstracts) and on the new PG & PD Research support award.

Since the AGM in 2020 the following awards have been made:

Society for Latin American Studies COVID-19 Hardship Fund

As some of the travel funding that had been allocated could not be spent, we created a COVID-19 Hardship Fund based on a model shared by Royal Historical Society. This funding of up to £500 was available to help support SLAS PG and postdoc members in this time of extraordinary crisis. Awards were not intended nor required to support research activities. Instead, this funding was to support day-to-day financial challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and included cases where fellowships were cancelled or where work at universities had been significantly reduced or terminated prematurely in response to COVID-19.

We made a total of 15 awards under this scheme (to a total of £7292).

Due to the sensitivity of applying for hardship funds, we will not list recipients of the funding and do not expect recipients to disclose the funding unless they chose to.

SLAS Postdoctoral Research Award

This is a scheme that offers £2000 to support the work of postdoctoral researchers. We increased the awards available from three up to four in recognition of the exceptionally high standard of applications.

- Struan Gray
- Rebecca Irons
- Karunika Kardak
- Beth Pearson

Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Travel Grants

15 grants worth up to £1000 are available to postgraduate and postdoctoral members to encourage and assist with travel. In this year, we awarded funding to all applications received (9 in total). It has been agreed that unspent funds can be reallocated to the PG & PD Research support award.

- Paulina Caro Troncoso (Edinburgh)
- Pietra Cepero Rua Perez (Durham)
- Susanna Corona (UCL)
- Carlos Cruz Mosquera (QMUL)
- Giovanna Gini (QMUL)
- Nicolas Gomez Baeza (Warwick)
- Valentina Infante Batiste (Oxford)
- Nuni Jorgensen (QMUL)
- Jelani Munroe (Oxford)

Conference and Event and Seminar Grants Support

A total of £4,000 is available to support SLAS members organise events in their own institutions. This year awards were made to:

- Lorena Cervera Ferrer (UCL), 'Latin American Feminist Film Collectives 1975-2020' (£1000)
- Chiara Chiavaroli (LSE), 'Mapping Cosmos: Earth-beings, Bodies and Territories in Latin America' (£500)
- Emily Gregg (Latin American Bureau), 'Voices: www.vola.org.uk' (£900)

Blakemore Prize

The 2020 Blakemore Prize was awarded to: Valentina Infante Batista (Oxford) for her essay 'Ya dijimos NO pero el SÍ está en todo. The memories of the dictatorship in Chile's social mobilisations (October 2019 – February 2020)'.

The winner of the 2021 Prize is Charlotte Eaton (LSE) for her essay 'Colombian foreign policy and the Spanish civil war, 1936-1939'.

PG & PD Research Support Grants

This is a new grant scheme introduced this year with a deadline of 30 May. We will make available up to 10 grants worth up to £500 each to postgraduate and postdoctoral members to support research costs (e.g. purchasing image rights, indexing, translation costs, co-production of outputs etc.). This is a more flexible grant scheme that has been developed as a response to the pandemic as a supplement to our other schemes that usually focus on travel costs.

I will report on recipients of these awards next year as the deadline for applications has not yet passed.

Elections to the SLAS Committee

The Secretary reported on the outcome of the 2021 elections.

The following posts were available:

- President: standard two-year post
- Vice-President: standard two-year post
- 3 x Ordinary Members: standard two-year post

By the deadline, the required number of nominations had been received for each of the following posts, and nominees were thus appointed to the posts.

President: Thea Pitman (Leeds)

3 x Ordinary Members: Eve Hayes de Kalaf (Liverpool), Paul Merchant (Bristol), Rebecca Ogden (Kent)

By the deadline, two valid nominations had been received for the position of Vice President. An election was held and Marieke Riethof (Liverpool) was duly elected to the position.

SLAS FINANCES 1/1/20-31/12/20

PREAMBLE

This report covers the calendar year 2020

1. Pence have been rounded down (1-50) or up (51-99) to the nearest £
2. Reserves at 1 January 2020 stood at 213,965 (NatWest 213,958; 7 Cash-in-hand)

INCOME: 90,350

Wiley 89,115; Donations 475; Skipton Building Society 385

Note: a further 4,528 was paid into the NatWest account in respect of refunds for advance payments for accommodation and travel for Committee members who had planned to attend the aborted Conference in Amsterdam. A further 1,383 was refunded by NatWest which had erroneously double-charged for bank transfers made to 2 Latin-American Scholars who had insisted that they were unable to secure refunds for cancelled flight from Mexico for the cancelled Congress. I suggest that we do not count these sums as income for they were largely outweighed by the initial advances/offers made by SLAS.

EXPENDITURE: 64,642

Annual Conference 11,409 (of which 10,969 paid to the University of Amsterdam)

Blakemore Prize 600

BLAR Editorial Assistant 21,047 salary + consumables

BLAR Editors' Emoluments 6,000

BLAR Editors' Expenses 1,033

Committee Expenses 2,266

Note I have excluded advance payments, largely refunded for the cancelled Congress

Hardship Awards 7,292 (not included in the original budget)

LA Scholars 1,557

P/g Fieldwork 4,000

Note: those unclaimed in 2020 might have to be paid later this year

P/g Overseas Conferences ditto

PILAS 944

Post=doc awards 6,000

Seminars/Conferences 469

Standing Conference 29

Subscriptions 100 (UCML)

Translations 403

Website etc. 1,493

CONCLUSION

The opening balance of 213,965 plus 2020 income of 90,350, minus expenditure of 64,642 left a balance of 239,673 for carrying forward to 2021. This is held as follows: 168,021 in the Society's NatWest account, and 75,000. in the Skipton Building Society account..

JOHN FISHER (SLAS TREASURER)

2 April 2021



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of** Charity Name **SOCIETY OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

On accounts for the year ended **31/03/2021** **Charity no (if any)**

Set out on pages **1** (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  **Date:** **30/3/2021**

Name: **ANTONI KAPCIA**

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): **UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM (EMERITUS PROFESSOR)**

Address: **2 VICKERS ST
NOTTINGHAM
NG3 4LD**