

# **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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
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>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
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**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
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 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
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1 King Street  
Leeds  
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Date: 8 July 2025