

Latin American Studies Association
Education and Educational Policy Section

Section's Business Meeting Report, May 6, 2022

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Secretary/Treasurer – 2022-2023

The LASA Education and Educational Policy Section business meeting took place virtually on May 6, 2022. Eleven members attended the meeting. The agenda included the following items: 1) Greeting and introduction of the 2021-2022 Education Section board members; 2) introduction and registration of participants; 3) discussion about the reason for being of the sections and their role in the annual LASA congress; 4) business report by the Co-Chair Pablo García; 5) LASA 2022 congress report; 6) information about the LASA 2023 congress; 7) presentation of the 2022 Award/Travel Grant winner; 8) election of the Education Section board 2022-2023; 9) emerging topics; and 10) adjourn.

It was explained to the attendees that LASA sections do not participate in the organization of the Association's annual congresses. LASA President is in charge of the organization along with the designated Congress Chairs, Track Chairs, and LASA's office of the Executive Director. Sections form their invited panels, whose number is determined by membership size (one invited panel per 50-75 members) and plan the annual business meeting. At one time, the Education Section sought to have a representative as a Co-chair of the Education track, but this was only possible a couple of times. The Education Section then focused on creating symposia or groups of panels by theme. To this end, each year it invites members to submit their papers proposals to the projected symposium(s), which the board collectively organizes and submits to the congress. The invited sessions are chosen from these panels. The aim is thus to encourage more member participation and to increase the possibility of acceptance of the Section's proposals.

In 2022, Fabiola Cabra and Pablo García coordinated the symposium "Socio-environmental polarization and educational inequalities," which had four panels: the invited session on higher education (panel 1) and three subsequent panels on inequalities (panel 2), right to education (panel 3), and Ibero-American higher education movements in the context of polarization and environmental risk (panel 4), the latter by the RIES group from Brazil/Portugal. LASA 2023 will take place in Vancouver Canada, and LASA 2024 will be in San Francisco California. Due to the small number of members, the Education Section will not have invited panels in 2023. It is unknown if this situation could change if the membership increases. The most recent report (May 2022) showed that the section had only 46 members. In contrast, the financial situation of the section is better with a balance of US\$4,026.99.

In 2022, the Section's Awards/Travel Grants for graduate students and recently graduated doctors (five years) were reinstated. They are awarded to Section eligible members who had accepted papers to the Congress, registered for the conference, and were in good standing with their memberships. On this occasion, the Awards covered the registration for the congress. Only one application was received, meeting all the criteria, and it was awarded to Alejandra Capocasale Bruno from the Education Training Council ANEP of Uruguay.

During the business meeting, the elections for the Education Section board were held. The new 2022-2023 executive committee consists of: Pablo García (Universidad Tres de Febrero, Argentina), Co-Chair; Nancy Palacios (Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia), Co-Chair; and Jorge Enrique Delgado (University of Pittsburgh, USA/Pontificia Universidad

Javeriana, Colombia), Secretary/Treasurer. As it has been the tradition in recent years, other participants to the meeting (as well as those who did not attend the Congress but expressed an interest in remaining on the board) were invited to serve as advisors. Thus, the group of advisors for 2022-2023 is made up of: Alejandra Capocasale Bruno (Education Training Council ANEP, Uruguay), Rosita Angelo Rosano (National Administration of Public Education, Uruguay), Paola Suárez Ávila (CISAN-UNAM, Mexico), Sirlei de Lourdes Lauxen (Cruz Alta University, Brazil), Karina Nossar (Education Training Council, Uruguay), Fabiola Cabra (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia), Esther Ibarra (Tijuana Institute of Technology, Mexico), Werner Vásquez von Schoettler (FLACSO, Ecuador), José David Alarid (National Pedagogical University, Mexico) and Salvador Camacho (Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, Mexico).

Recently, the Education Section has sought to highlight/disseminate the most relevant publications of its members. With this aim, a list of references has been created that will soon be published on the website. On the other hand, an idea for a project titled, “Essential Library of Latin American Education” was introduced. The rationale is that it is necessary to have a list (and hopefully access) of key references to understand and learn about education in Ibero-Latin America. With the fast-growing number of publications and the pressure to which researchers and academics face to publish, there is an increasing difficulty to know all the literature that exists and what is relevant. Likewise, there are content gaps between what is published and what is read by subject, region, and language. As the subject of education is so broad, it was proposed to start with a pilot on “educational policy.” The idea was accepted and later a general meeting will be called to those interested in participating in the project to start planning and implementing. This project will also seek to establish collaborations with other like groups working in educational research, such as the CIES Latin American SIG, the comparative education societies in the region, and other networks. Part of the Section funds could be used to finance this project.

Some of the tasks that the 2022-2023 board will continue to work on include: 1) organizing/convening the Section’s symposia for the LASA 2023 congress; 2) continuing updating/improving the website; 3) creating other communication channels on social networks or a periodic publication (e.g., a newsletter); 4) developing strategies to attract new members and establishing collaborations with other organizations and networks of educational researchers in Latin America; 5) continuing to work on the creation of a resources section on the Education Section's page on Latin American educational research.

The Section’s email is educacionlasa@gmail.com. Also, the URL of the page on the Internet is: <https://sections.lasaweb.org/sections/educacion-politicaseducativas/>.