

**Latin American Studies Association**  
**Section of Education and Educational Policies**

Report of the Section's business meeting, May 25, 2023, in Vancouver Canada

By: Nancy Palacios, Co-chair; Rosita Angelo, Incoming Co-chair; Pablo García, Outgoing Co-chair; Jorge Enrique Delgado, Secretary/Treasurer – 2023-2024

The hybrid business meeting of the LASA's Education and Educational Policies Section took place on May 25, 2023. Ten members attended the meeting. A second virtual meeting was held on June 7 with the participation of nine members in which the Section's new leadership for 2023-2024 was confirmed.

After the welcoming and introduction of the participants, an assessment of the participation of the Education Section in the LASA 2023 conference was conducted. The Co-chairs explained to the attendees that having less than 50 members (36 in 2022 ) did not give the Section the right to convene invited panels.<sup>3</sup> Even so, following the tradition of the last 6-7 years in which the Section organizes several symposia based on the theme of the congress, Nancy Palacios and Rosita Angelo, symposium coordinators for 2023, invited the members to send their proposals for individual papers/panels to. They grouped the proposals into five panels and submitted them to the conference for evaluation. Through this strategy, the Section seeks to work as a collective and increase the possibility of acceptance of the proposals. It should be noted that Pablo García and Karina Nossar served as track chairs of the Education track for the 2023 LASA conference. We consider this an achievement of the Section, since in the past such track chairs were people outside the sections. Currently, LASA consults with the sections to choose the track chairs in those conference tracks that are specifically related to the sections' themes.

Likewise, the strategy that the Section has been implementing to make projects sustainable and to increase its participation in the LASA conference was explained during the meeting. Regarding the strategy for sustainability, the Section's Co-chairs are elected for two-year periods and every year only one new Co-chair is elected. This year, Pablo García (Argentina) completed his term as Co-chair and Nancy Palacios (Colombia) begins her second term. On the other hand, Jorge Delgado has served as Secretary/Treasurer (USA, Colombia) since 2018 to take care of communications and archiving and connecting initiatives. Finally, the door is open for all members interested in participating in the Section's leadership to serve as advisors. In 2022-2023, the advisors were Rosita Angelo, Fabiola Cabra, Esther Ibarra, Sirlei Lauxen, Karina Nossar, Paola Suárez, David Alarid, Salvador Camacho, and Werner Vásquez. Regarding the strategy to increase participation in the conference, the organization of symposia and the service by Section members as track chairs of the conference were mentioned above. We also noted that the conference conveners responded to the Section's request to schedule Education panels consecutively and, if possible, in the same room. We expect in 2024 to have more in-person participation and that the symposia will serve as spaces for members to collaborate and build community.

The reasons for the Section's decreasing membership were analyzed. The Education track chairs were surprised at having received many proposals, but most proponents were not members of the Section. The pandemic, the economic crisis in several countries, US and Canadian visa restrictions, and not knowing about the Section were suggested as probable causes. The assembly proposed to invite current and former members of the Section to renew their memberships, whose contact information is included in our listserv. They receive frequent communications from the

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<sup>3</sup> Historical membership data of the Education Section: 2016, 108 members; 2017, 115; 2018, 137; 2019, 107; 2020, 85; 2021, 72; 2022, 46; 2023, 36

Section through the MailChimp platform. We also talked about inviting this year's authors to join the Section, promoting it in other educational research networks in Latin America, and creating specific lines of inquiry to engage in projects that contribute to develop the educational field. Likewise, it was considered that the return of the conference to a Latin American country would contribute to increasing the membership of the Section and the attendance to the conference. In 2024, LASA will be in Bogotá, Colombia. Another strategy will be increasing the use of the social networks Facebook and Twitter, service that LASA offers to the Sections. It will be a task for the Section's 2023-2024 leadership to establish the general lines of inquiry and for the symposiums for the 2024 conference.

During the hybrid assembly and the subsequent virtual meeting, the Section's leadership roster for the 2023-2024 year was elected/confirmed. It consists of: **Co-chairs**, Nancy Palacios (Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia) and Rosita Angelo (National Administration of Public Education, Uruguay); **Secretary/Treasurer**, Jorge Enrique Delgado (University of Pittsburgh, USA/Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia); **Counselors**, Fabiola Cabra (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia), Dina Castro (Peru/Boston University, USA), Sarah Chocano (Peru/University of Toronto, Canada), Sirlei Lauxen (Cruz Alta University, Brazil), Karina Nossar (Council for Education Training, Uruguay), José David Alarid (National Pedagogical University, Mexico), Nicolás Betancur (Universidad de La República, Uruguay), Salvador Camacho (Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, Mexico), Alan Fairlie (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru), Pablo García (Tres de Febrero National University, Argentina) and Werner Vásquez (FLACSO, Ecuador).

In 2023, the Education Section re-launched the scholarship/travel grant for graduate students and recently graduated doctors (10 years). Only one submission was received, and the grant was awarded to Nancy Palacios (US\$250).<sup>4</sup> The criteria for the scholarship/travel grant this year did not exclude the members of the Education board, so they were able to apply as long as they met all the requirements established in the call. An initiative that generated great interest is to schedule visits and exchanges with professors/institutions in different educational levels during the LASA 2024 conference in Bogotá. Organizing this activity will be a task for the new leadership. Finally, it was shared that a chapter entitled, "Ethically Engaged Public Universities in Latin America: Institutional Values, Well-rounded Education, and Social Commitment," which was co-authored by David Alarid, Salvador Camacho, Jorge Delgado, Nancy Palacios, and Nilce Vieira, it will soon be published in a book edited by Palgrave Macmillan. Fabiola Cabra suggested that this year's papers could also be published in an edited book as was done in the Section in previous years. Lastly, references to the scholarship products of the members of the Section will continue to be collected and a pilot of the project, "Essential Library of Latin American Education," will be conducted on "educational policy."

The Section's email is [educacionlasa@gmail.com](mailto:educacionlasa@gmail.com). Also, the URL of the webpage is <https://sections.lasaweb.org/sections/educacion-politicaseducativas/>.

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<sup>4</sup> The Education Section's finances continue to be healthy. The balance at the time of the conference was US\$4.250,99.