

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**Latin American Studies in Practice:**  
**Theory Beyond the Academy**

**2012 Indiana University Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies**  
**Graduate Student Conference**  
**April 13-14, 2012**



On July 5, 2009, the Honduran military murdered Isis Obed Murillo Mencías at a protest supporting deposed president Manuel Zelaya. The man pictured here immediately began to put his hands in the puddle of blood that had drained from young Isis's head, attempting to ensure that those who had just taken his life could not also take away the memory of him and of his violently unjust death. (Photo by Kevin Coleman, PhD Student, Latin American History, Indiana University—Bloomington. Winner of the 2012 CLACS Photo Contest)

The Indiana University Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) is proud to host the inaugural **CLACS Graduate Student Conference on April 13-14, 2012** on the campus of **Indiana University Bloomington**. This year's conference aims to bring together a diverse group of graduate students to facilitate interdisciplinary and inter-institutional cohorts within the field of Latin American Studies.

During the past year, the Chilean student movement has generated a popular social mobilization that challenges key structures of the neo-liberal state in that country; environmental activists in Ecuador garnered one of the largest environmental settlements in history from the oil giant, Chevron; and, new market reforms in Cuba have brought significant changes to daily life on the island. This year's theme, "Latin American Studies in Practice," encourages participants to consider the relationship between scholarship and human practice beyond the academy. How does scholarly work contribute to and/or reflect movements for social change in Latin America? How can scholarship engage with contemporary professional practice in business, public policy, law, and non-governmental organizations? Do scholars have an obligation to respond to pressing social, political, environmental, and economic problems in the present? How can historical and literary approaches inform our understanding of contemporary issues?

We welcome individual submissions and panel proposals from all disciplinary and professional backgrounds including, but not limited to, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Cultural Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Public and Environmental Affairs, Public Health, Business, and Law. Papers may address diverse topics from any Latin American or Caribbean context but should do so in a way that articulates with this year's theme.

Graduate students must submit a title, an abstract (300 word maximum) and CV by February 1, 2012. Proposals are welcome from individuals and from panels whose participants plan to address a common theme. **SEVERAL TRAVEL GRANTS** ranging from **\$200-350** will be available on a competitive basis for students coming from **outside** Indiana University Bloomington; those students who apply for a travel grant must also submit a rough budget to aid in allocation of funds. Please download the proposal form from the CLACS website - <http://www.indiana.edu/~clacs/gradconf2012.shtml> - and send all documents as attachments in a single email to [clacs@indiana.edu](mailto:clacs@indiana.edu) with the subject line "CLACS Graduate Student Conference 2012." For panel proposals, a designated chair should gather presenters' proposal materials and send all documents in a single email, with a brief, one-paragraph statement describing the panel. All applicants will be notified about acceptance and panel assignment (for individual applicants) no later than February 27, 2012.

This year's conference will feature a reception, two days of panels, a Friday keynote speech by Bernardo Mendel Professor of History, Daniel James, and a Saturday screening of Jeffrey L. Gould's 2011 documentary *The Word in the Woods*. An IU Bloomington faculty member will serve as commentator on each student panel.