

SEMESTER REPORT

ISSUED DEC 30TH, 2020

LatinGSAPP

Columbia GSAPP Student Organization

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OUR GOAL

The Semester Report aims to highlight LatinGSAPP's accomplishments during the Fall 2020 semester. We hope this brief summary may provide greater insight into our work amongst the LatinGSAPP Network and encourage stronger lines of communication between current students, alumni, faculty and administrators. We want to define "our" network in the richest, broadest sense.

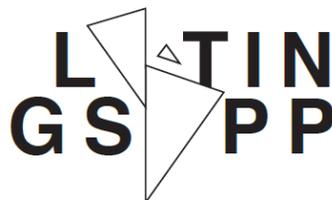
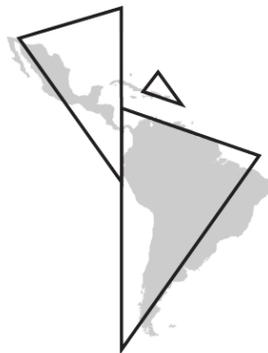
We would like to take this opportunity to show gratitude to the members of the LatinGSAPP Network, Conversation Series Co-Curator Prof. Anna Dietzsch, Faculty Advisor Prof. Luis Carranza, Conversation Series panelists, GSAPP administration, ILAS leadership and staff, CGC Rio, CGC Santiago, for all their work and support.

OUR WORK

During the Summer of 2020, LatinGSAPP published our [Statement of Commitment to Racial Justice](#) – in solidarity with the Black Student Alliance's "[On the Futility of Listening](#)" and the Black Faculty of Columbia University's GSAPP's "[Unlearning Whiteness](#)" letters – which was written in collaboration with Professors [Anna Dietzsch](#), [Justin Garrett Moore](#) and [Jerome Haferd](#). Following its publication, we received strong feedback from alumni and current students, who expressed their interest in becoming active collaborators of the student organization. Many of these collaborators have since become vital LatinGSAPP members.

As a means of implementing some of the ideas to which we committed in the summer statement, [LatinGSAPP developed multiple student-run initiatives that focused our discourse on hemispheric interests and issues](#) – including a [semester-long Conversation Series](#) and a [multimedia reading list, titled "Listx"](#). Digital communication platforms enabled us to open up these conversations to GSAPP, Columbia University, and the broader design community. Additionally, LatinGSAPP announced [the creation of its first student publication, titled *Patio*; the first issue of *Patio* will be launched digitally in Spring 2021 and in print in Summer 2021.](#)

LatinGSAPP selected "[Alterity](#)" as the theme of our semester conversation series, Listx publications and the first [issue of *Patio*](#). Alterity refers to the acknowledgment of the existence of oneself through the capacity to recognize the other as such: a singular, subjective person. Alterity does not entail agreement but acceptance, an essential process by which we achieve empathy. If we cannot see the other, we cannot respect them; if we can only see the other as the negation of oneself, we cannot relate to them.



OUR CONVERSATIONS

In collaboration with Co-Curator Prof. Anna Dietzch, LatinGSAPP organized and carried out our most ambitious event series yet: The Fall 2020 Conversation Series on “Alterity”. The four-part event series was graciously co-sponsored by Columbia GSAPP and Columbia University’s Institute of Latin American Studies, with support from Columbia Global Center Rio and Columbia Global Center Santiago.

Event 1: “Before, During, & After Gsapp”

September, 2020 at Zoom - [Watch the full event](#)

The event gathered alumni with a shared identity of being from Latin America in the United States, but bringing different backgrounds, perspectives and experiences in their field.

- Panelists: [Luisa Canuto](#), [Cecilia Gonzalezrubio Uribe](#), [Jose Gerardo Ponte Neto](#), [Pauline Claramunt](#)
- Moderator: [Inés Yupanqui](#)

Event 2: “Mapping & Authorship”

October, 2020 at Zoom - [Watch the full event](#)

“Mapping & Authorship” invited the guests to address questions of authorship in mapping as an exercise of recognition to define “the other”, meaning the regulation of visibility or invisibility of the Latin community in Latin America and the United States.

- Panelists: [Kendall Thomas](#), [Regner Ramos](#), [Felipe Correa](#)
- Moderator: [Laura Kurgan](#)

Event 3: “Urban Fabric & Scale”

November, 2020 at Zoom - [Watch the full event](#)

“Urban Fabric & Scale” invited emerging practices working in Latin America to dialogue about the synergies and ruptures of the urban space in their design approach. The talk was ingrained in the specificity of their localities bringing forth the discussion around “identity.”

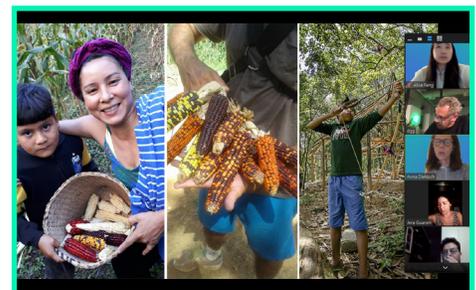
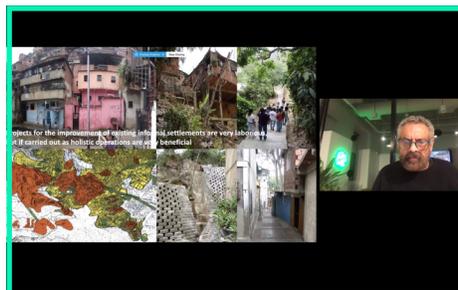
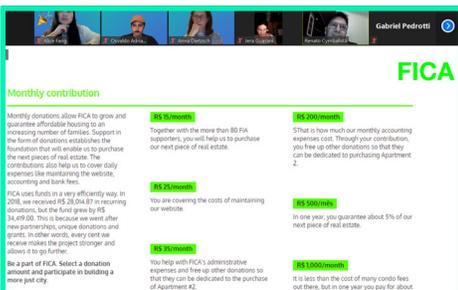
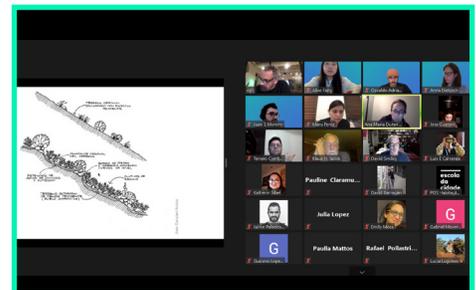
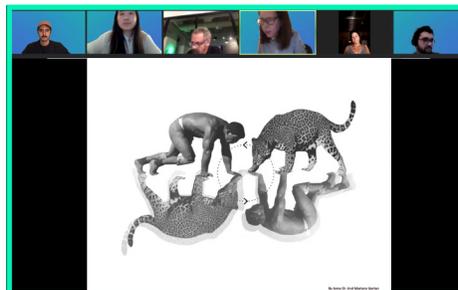
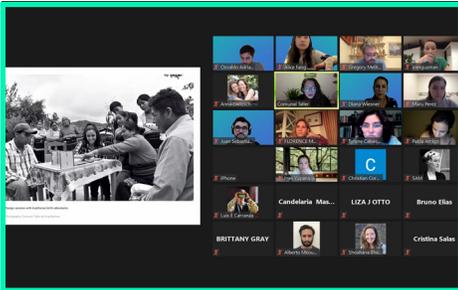
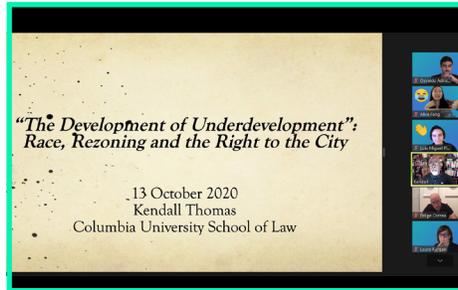
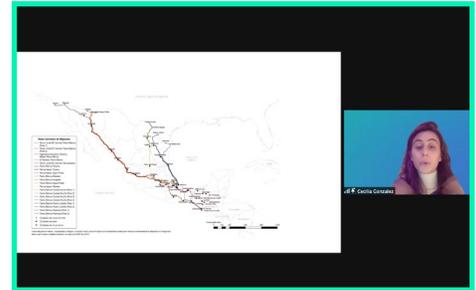
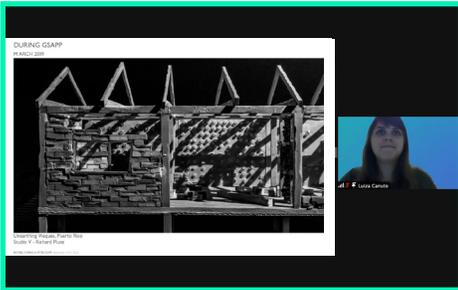
- Panelists: [Comunal Taller](#) - Jessica Amescua Carrera, [Diana Wiesner](#), [Taller Ken](#) - Ines Guzman Mendez & Gregory Kahn Melitonov
- Moderator: LatinGSAPP members - [Alice Fang](#), [Osvaldo Delbrey](#), [Juan Sebastián Moreno](#)

Event 4: “Alterity & The Third Landscape”

December, 2020 at Zoom - [Watch the full event](#)

“Alterity & Third Landscape” investigates how Alterity is “represented” or acted upon by different groups in Latin America. We will also touch upon how issues of identity and alterity are reshaped when we expose the diversity of experiences and imaginaries around Latin America.

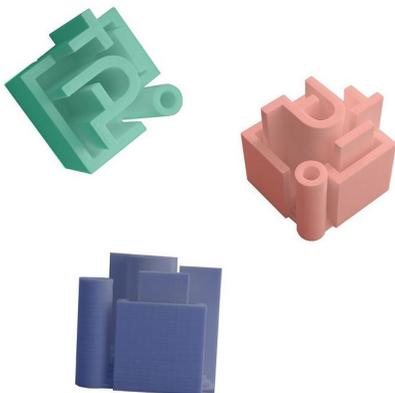
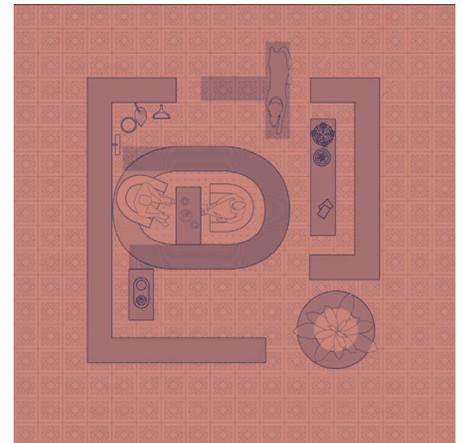
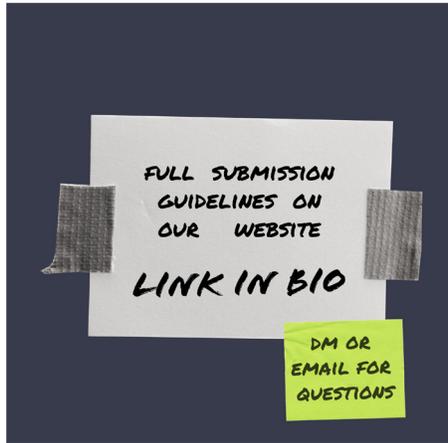
- Panelists: [Ana Durán Calisto](#), [Jerá Poty](#), [Renato Cymbalista](#), [David Gouverneur](#)
- Moderator: [Anna Dietzsch](#)



OUR PATIO

Patio is an independent, student-run editorial platform focused on critical issues of the Latin American community and built environment. The digital/analog platform selects a topic, which provides the thematic construction for multidisciplinary creative and analytical contributions both in written and graphic form.

- Website: patiopublication.cargo.site
- Instagram: @ [patio](https://www.instagram.com/patio)



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

LatinGSAPP introduced “Listx,” a project that aims to amplify interest and exposure to Latin American design media while fostering creativity through alterity. Through Listx, LatinGSAPP has been sharing recommendations to books, articles, films, podcasts, music, etc., following our commitment to decolonize the Columbia GSAPP curriculum. To access Listx, see [@latin.gsapp](#).

Executive Curator: Maria Pérez Benavides (M.Arch '21)



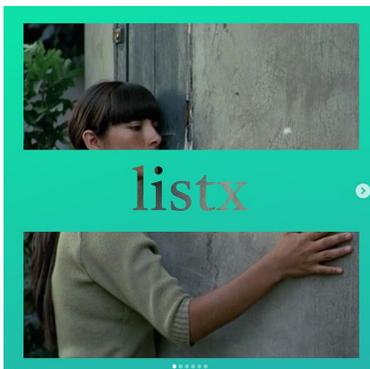
Curator:
Katherin Sibel
MS UP '22

“La isla que se achica:
Evolución del urbanismo
en Puerto Rico”
- Aníbal Sepúlveda



Curator:
Osvaldo Delbrey
M.Arch '22

Mucho, Mucho Amor
- Cristina Costantini
Kareem Tabsch



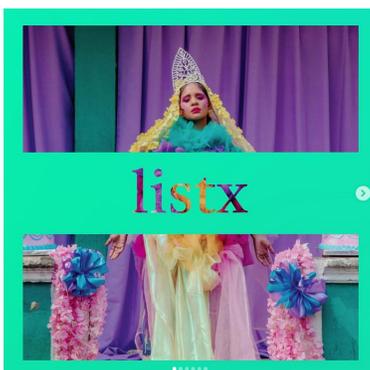
Curator:
Fernanda Carlovich
MS CCCP '19

*La Teta Asustada (The
Milk of Sorrow)*
- Claudia Llosa



Curator:
Fernanda Carlovich
MS CCCP '19

*Words of a Yanomami
Shaman*
- Davi Kopenawa &
Bruce Albert



Curator:
Luis Miguel Pizano-Andrade
M.Arch & MSRED '21

Miss Colombia
- Lido Pimienta

OUR OTHER INITIATIVES

- Fostered stronger lines of communication between the student organization and the administration through semi-weekly meetings with Danielle Smoller and Lyla Catellier, who helped solidify our initiatives from the semester.
- Worked with other identity-based GSAPP student organizations to encourage an intersectional approach to student affairs that improves student quality of life.
- Met with Dean Andraos in October to discuss initiatives that will ensure an effective GSAPP response to combat racism.
- Reached out and collaborated with Columbia's Organizations such as ILAS, CGC Rio, CGC Santiago, and Lemann Institute.
- Held weekly meetings and social events with the larger LatinGSAPP team.
- Initiated a communication with Latinx student groups in other schools to plan for Spring 2021 initiatives.

