



LATIN AMERICA BUREAU

Achievement and Performance Report

2021-2022

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BOOKS



Mexico Inside Out, by Nick Caistor

Published in April 2021, this is a further addition to our new Inside Out series which replaces the previous In Focus series of country guides. It was launched with an online event as part of a Mexico-focused festival in partnership with Movimientos (Latin American music promoters) and the Festival of Latin American Women in Arts, during lockdown.

We worked on partial drafts of Inside Out books for Colombia and Costa Rica, but have been unable to complete them. Chile has also been mooted.

Voices of Latin America, new chapter by Emily Gregg

Funding: Emily Gregg organised a series of webinars with funding from SLAS which were well attended (video material has been shared on YouTube and Patreon following the webinars). £2,000 would enable us to create an online exhibition with Museu da Pessoa of the stories collected by Emily.

Project: . Emily researched and wrote a brand new chapter on Covid-19, shared to LAB's Patreon subscribers and to be printed in new editions of *Voices*. We applied for funding from various grants and contacted many academics to collaborate. Good links were made with Nicholas Forsans (University of Essex), Museu da Pessoa (Brazil), and Neil Harvey (New Mexico State University). Sadly Emily has had to leave the project until we can find funding.



17TH APRIL 4:00 PM

**Book Launch -
Mexico Inside Out
by Nicholas Caistor**



Crossed Off The Map: Travels in Bolivia, by Shafik Meghji

Published March 2022, *Crossed off the Map* has been a huge success. The Washington Post, National Geographic Traveller, and Wanderlust travel magazine have all named *Crossed off the Map* as one of their favourite travel books of 2022. It was a finalist for Travel Narrative Book of the Year. Shafik has spoken on podcasts and at festivals, secured reviews in major magazines, and pitched a number of related stories to promote the book.

We're currently pursuing an enquiry from China about translating Shafik's book.

BOOKS



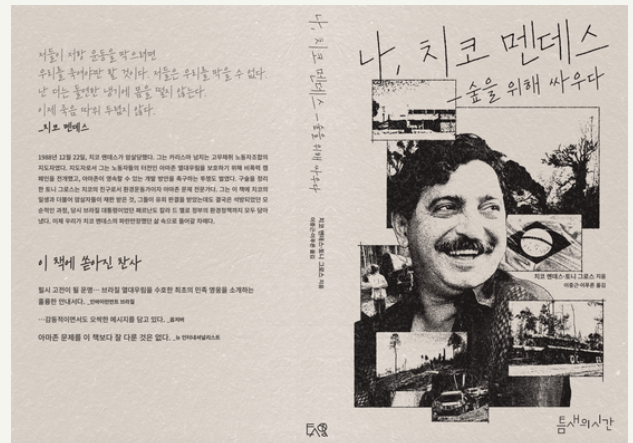
Women Resisting Violence: Voices and experiences from Latin America, by WRV Collective

This collaboratively-written book was edited and published by LAB and launched with an event in November 2022. Details in Section 1.

The Heart of Our Earth: Community resistance to mining in Latin America, by Tom Gatehouse

Funding: Following a successful public fundraiser for researching and writing the book, we won extra funding from Network for Social Change towards book marketing and dissemination, and dissemination and advocacy events. We are hoping to collaborate with London Mining Network, bookshops, and universities to organise webinars, events, and book talks to disseminate the book's stories.

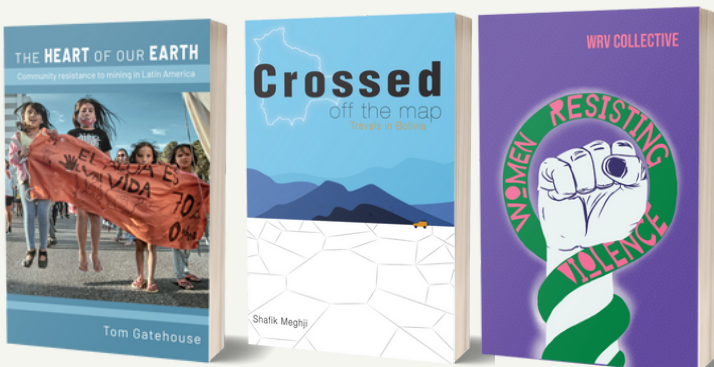
Book: Completed this year, it will be published 15 January 2023. The book website shares news about mining and the London Mining Network blog. An Instagram and Facebook page was created to share mining news.



Fight for the Forest: Chico Mendes in his own words, by Chico Mendes & Tony Gross

LAB has given rights for the 1992 book 'Fight for the Forest' to be translated into Korean and published by South Korean publisher 틈새의시간 (Gap Time Books) in 2023, and into Bengali by Pritilata Biswas of Mehanati (working class) Press in India. Sue Branford has written an introduction to the Bengali translation.

Other books currently in production include **Moving Forward: Seeing health, care, and violence through the eyes of displaced Venezuelan women in Brazil** by Pía Riggiozzi, Bruna Curcio, Natalia Cintra, and Tallullah Lines (more info in Section 1; and **Clamor: The search for the disappeared of the South American dictatorships** by Jan Rocha – originally published in Brazil in Portuguese, translated and edited in English to be published by LAB.



ARTICLE SERIES

The various blogs on LAB's website were reorganised into 'Series' and presented via a much improved set of web pages.

Voz - LAB's quarterly guest-written dispatch available exclusively to Patrons



LAB QUARTERLY DISPATCH

Funding: Patreon subscriptions allow us to commission a guest-written piece once each quarter.

Series: The Voz series brings long-read articles sharing first-hand experiences and expert analysis from our partners in Latin America – activists and campaigners, artists, journalists and academics. We hope their testimonies and commentary will help broaden our understanding of the region, and through it, the world.

Six [issues](#) have been published so far. Issues have been authored by experts in Chile, Guatemala, and Colombia (photo essay). We've published an excerpt from *Crossed Off The Map*, a new *Voices* chapter, and a chapter from *Women Resisting Violence*. The logo was designed by Chilean artist, Francisco Brzovic. His characteristic linocut process gives the logo texture and a sense of the unique voice of each dispatch's guest writer.



Environmental Defenders Series
edited by Katie Jones

Funding: Funding is needed. Application to ERS Collaborative Reporting Grant alongside a journalist and a photographer in Chile, and with participation of five outlets reporting on EDs in Latin America, was unsuccessful. We are applying for a small digital grant to develop the website and series.

Series: Inspired by the Global Witness report highlighting the terrible toll of killings of those who seek to defend their rights to land, water and their own way of life, this series is curated and edited by Katie Jones.

10 articles have been published so far, either written by LAB writers or republished from Latin American outlets. A re-publishing partnership was founded with No Ficción Guatemala, and contact made with five other Latin American outlets to translate and republish their articles on environmental defenders.

Events: A webinar was organised and hosted with Peru Support Group in October, where Katie presented the series.



Environmental Defenders

RESEARCH

ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT



LAB has continued to develop and expand its partnerships with university researchers, offering a range of website, editorial and training services. We now have contacts with the universities of Cardiff, East Anglia, Essex, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Northumbria, Reading, West of England; London's King's College, LMU, LSE, Queen Mary, and UCL; and overseas: Arizona, Florida State and New Mexico. LAB aims to secure funding either as a contracted researcher on a project already funded by the university or academic research councils, or as a partner in new projects based in and funded through the universities.

While it has been difficult to secure funding, the partnerships are important and promise well for the future.

Women Resisting Violence project with King's College London.

Funding: Following on from £19,000 funding from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account held at KCL, we applied for and won an additional £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund. This has been LAB's largest funded REI project.

Project: We collaborated with KCL on a multilingual podcast. Produced by Louise Morris with research from Principal Investigator Cathy McIlwaine, research and project management from Marilyn Thomson and assistance from Rebecca Wilson.

Eight episodes were produced in three languages, they were released over the international 16 days of activism on violence against women, and were downloaded by 1,900+ people in 50+ countries. (Read the full WRV engagement and impact report [here](#).)

The [WRV blog](#) covered the many ways women are resisting violence in the continent, in 77 blog articles which received just under 10,000 pageviews.

The book [Women Resisting Violence: Voices and Experiences from Latin America](#) was published on 15 November 2022 with a launch event in London. It includes six chapters, was written collectively by seven authors and has received glowing endorsements.

4 WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

4 RESEARCHERS

8 EPISODES

3 LANGUAGES

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

50+ COUNTRIES

1,900+ DOWNLOADS



RESEARCH

ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT



Voces en recuperación project with University of East Anglia

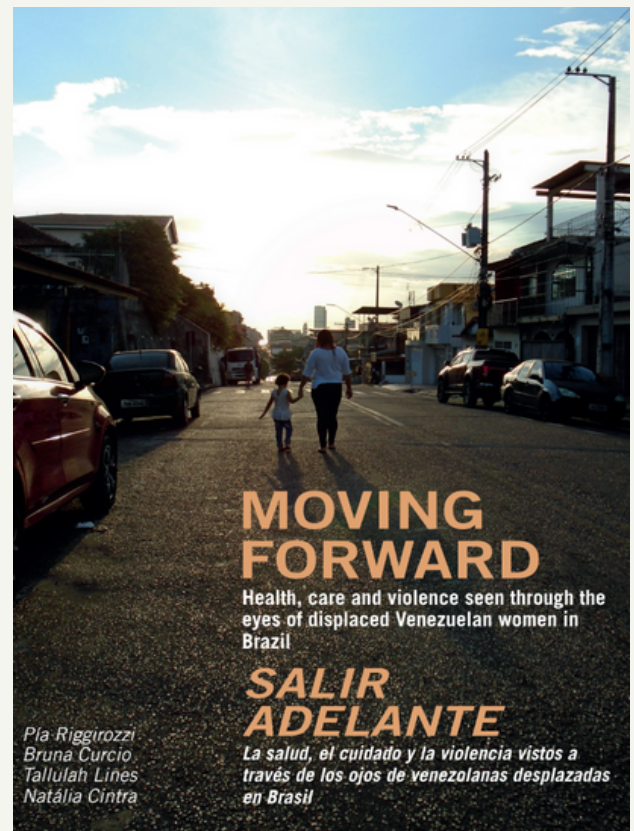
LAB was invited to become a partner on this project by Dr Hazel Marsh and Dr Roger Few. The research addresses recovery from Covid-19 in the region. We haven't yet been directly involved but have offered to create a website and help find a monthly interpreter for their meetings. More to follow in 2023 following the researchers' trip to the region.

Moving Forward photobook and documentary with Universities of Southampton and York

Funding: University of Southampton paid LAB for editing, publishing, and subtitling services for a photobook and documentary film, as part of their ReGHID project (Redressing Gendered Health Inequalities of Displaced Women and Girls in Contexts of Protracted Crisis in Central and South America).



Projects: LAB edited a **photobook** showing Venezuelan migrant women's experiences of migrating to and settling in Brazil. 'Moving Forward: health, care and violence seen through the eyes of displaced Venezuelan women in Brazil' will be published by LAB and Practical Action Publishing next year in two bilingual issues: one in English and Spanish and another in Spanish and Portuguese.



LAB also subtitled the short **documentary** film 'Salir Adelante' on the same issues into English and Portuguese. We are considering publishing another related book from the team, and may provide further promotional services.

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PATREON

'Patrons' are LAB subscribers who pay a regular, usually monthly subscription in return for early or sole access to some content on LAB's website.

So far we have 36 Patrons who contribute a total of £182 per month. This number has fluctuated throughout, with people joining and others leaving. We haven't received feedback from those who've stopped supporting. We are curious about people's experiences and open to suggestions. The Voz series seems to be an effective way to promote books, by pre-launching a chapter or other 'taster' material. Releasing only to Patrons also encourages new Patrons to join. Even if they leave after one month, we receive income for the time they are with us.



Facebook numbers have dropped this year. We presume people are using the platform less and less.

LinkedIn is another useful platform for sharing big news about LAB (not general news stories). People engage with our posts more here than on Facebook.

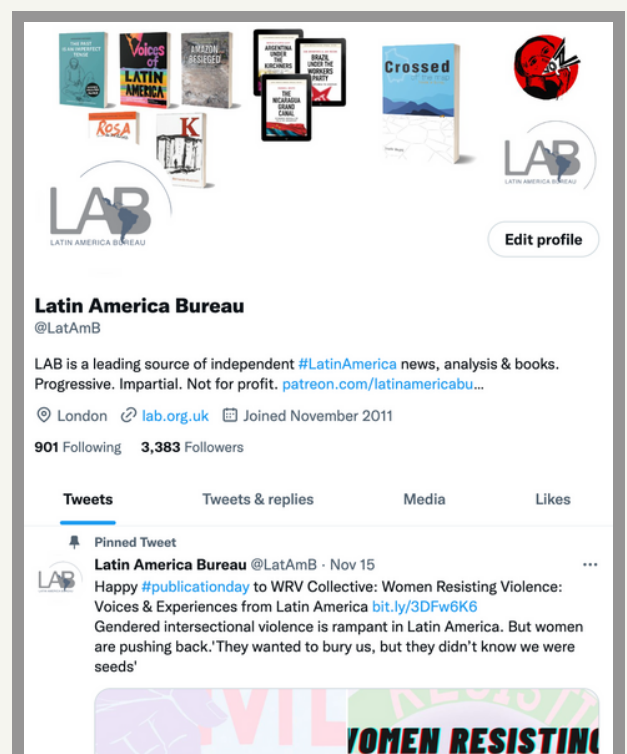
LAB's newsletter has 1,300+ subscribers. It continues to be a good way of sharing LAB news and articles. Volunteer Antonella Navarro has taken over writing the newsletter each month. Over 50 per cent of the audience is based in the US.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

LAB's Twitter following has grown. We now have 3,416 followers and get about 10-15,000 'impressions' a month. During Covid this was often above 30,000 per month.

We have 1,082 followers on Instagram. Reels (short videos) about the WRV book have received over 1,000 views each. Follower numbers continue to grow and LAB is able to capture wider audiences.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Staff

At different times during this period, LAB has employed Tom Gatehouse to work on our mining book, *The Heart of Our Earth*; Emily Gregg, to work on the *Voices of Latin America Covid-19* chapter, and to start development of our Covid-19 – Loss, Survival, Recovery, Transformation project; and Rebecca Wilson, who is now Managing Editor and worked extensively on the *Women Resisting Violence* project, the website, fundraising, social media and publications. Our excellent KickStart employee Poppy Purvis, finished in September 2021 and we were unable to find funding to keep her on past November.

Note: While LAB's situation and its reputation among university researchers has improved, it remains a constant struggle to find funding to employ staff on any other than a short-term basis for specific projects. LAB's core presence as a book publisher and news website relies on volunteer input. Through REI projects, we've been able to contract freelancers from LAB's network to help us carry out work.

Volunteers

LAB continues to work with a wide range of volunteers. Our official list features 113 contributors who have helped us across all of our projects, and have supported our activities including fundraising, research, writing, editing, uploading, and managing our social media channels.

Regular contributors Liam Sousa Casey, Antonella Navarro, Kinga Harasim and Natasha Tinsley were featured on LAB's website.

Latin America Bureau

lab.org.uk

contactlab@lab.org.uk

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
LATIN AMERICA BUREAU**

