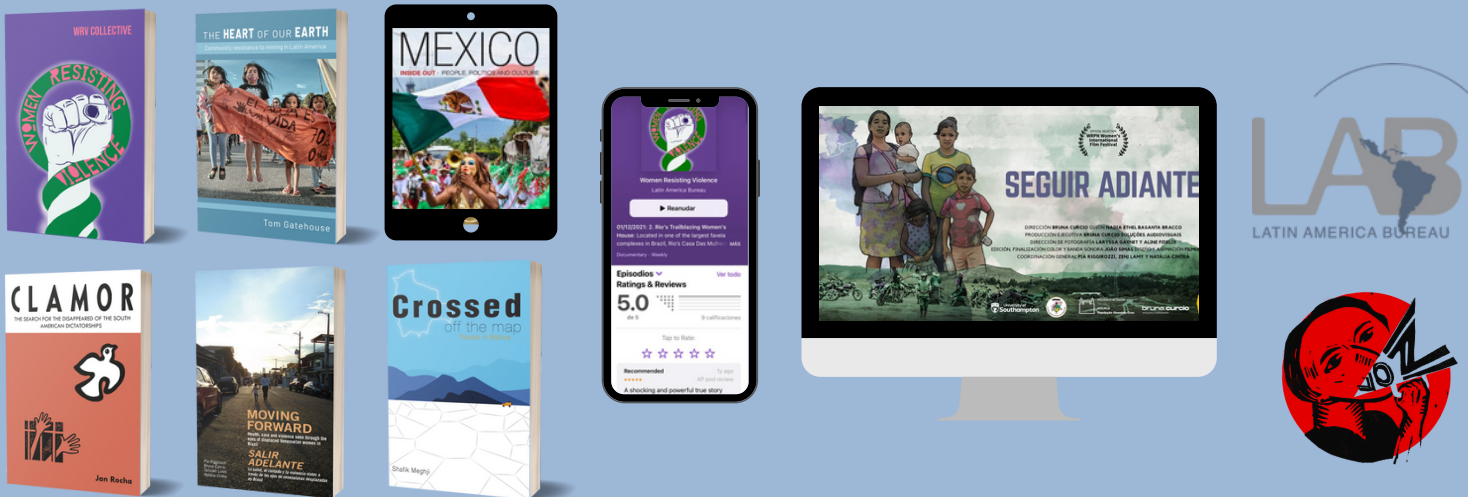




# LATIN AMERICA BUREAU

## Achievement and Performance Report



# 2022-2023

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# 1 BOOKS



## Overview

LAB has published an unparalleled number of books since March 2022, thanks in part to the strength of our ongoing publishing partnership with Practical Action Publishing.

PAP's distribution is now via Ingrams which will help to increase sales in the UK and the US in particular, and makes books available in Latin America via print-on-demand facilities in the USA.

LAB's sales income (a fixed royalty of 20 per cent of Practical Action Publishing's net sales income) totalled £2,700 in the 2022-23 financial year.

Book launches and regular events have provided numerous opportunities for mounting bookstalls selling recent LAB books. However the lack of a London office and a regular site to store books has created significant challenges for organisation. We have at last found a central London-based volunteer to be our Print Book Sales Manager, which should improve our sales.

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

Published in March 2022, *Crossed Off the Map* has fast become one of LAB's best-selling books. **The Washington Post**, **National Geographic Traveller** and **Wanderlust** all named it one of their travel books of 2022. It was a finalist for **Travel Narrative Book of the Year**. Shafik spoke on numerous podcasts, secured reviews in major magazines, and pitched a number of related stories promoting the book. Rights to the Chinese translation have now been sold.

## The Heart of Our Earth: Community Resistance to Mining in Latin America, by Tom Gatehouse

Published in March 2023, with strong endorsements from academics and professionals in the field, this carefully researched book tells the story of the unprecedented expansion of the mining industry across Latin America since the 1990s, and the massive social and environmental upheaval this has involved.

Dissemination: A launch event at Lumen in central London with 50 attendees, talks, refreshments, an exhibition about the work of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira, and sales of the book.

An international **webinar** in English, Spanish, and Portuguese promoted the book and heard from experts from Argentina, Ecuador, and Brazil under the theme of Mining and Environmental Justice in Latin America: A Closer Look. Tom also spoke at **Morocco Bound bookshop** in south London on Can Mining Help Solve the Climate Crisis?

Press coverage included an excellent review in **NACLA**, an excerpt published in three languages on **Diálogo Chino**, a print review in **the New Internationalist**, interviews with the author on the **Latin American Review of Books** and **LatAm Dialogues** podcasts, a feature in **Bristol 24/7**, an interview in **El Clarín** Chile, and a focus on the lithium chapter in **El Clarín** (Chile), **Voix Populaire** (Switzerland) and **Ventuno** (Italy).

The **website** provides a space for online references, additional reading and multimedia material. Instagram and Facebook pages supported this.

# 2 BOOKS



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

This collaboratively-written book was edited and published by LAB as part of a major Research Engagement and Impact (REI) partnership between King's College London and LAB, led by Cathy McIlwaine. Authors include Cathy McIlwaine and Jelke Boesten of KCL, Louise Morris and Marilyn Thomson of LAB and independent gender consultant, Patricia Muñoz Cabrera. The cover was designed by Colombian artist Lilophilía. The book was launched with an event at KCL in central London in November 2022.

133 copies of the book had been sold by March 2023.

Additional funding from King's College London will enable LAB to translate the book into Portuguese and Spanish, aimed at Latin American audiences. Both translated editions will be published in 2024.

## Moving Forward: Seeing health, care, and violence through the eyes of displaced Venezuelan women in Brazil by Pía Riggirozzi, Bruna Curcio, Natalia Cintra, and Tallullah Lines

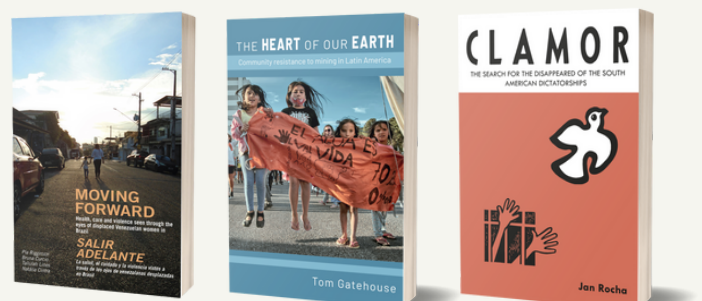
In August 2022, LAB began work on the photobook *Moving Forward: Health, care and violence seen through the eyes of displaced Venezuelan women in Brazil*. We edited and published two editions, one in English and Spanish and a second in Portuguese and Spanish. The books were published in May and June 2023.

Practical Action Publishing produced Open Access electronic editions of the book i.e. free to download globally.



## Clamor: The search for the disappeared of the South American dictatorships by Jan Rocha

Originally published in Brazil in Portuguese by distinguished journalist and human rights campaigner Jan Rocha, who writes a regular column for LAB from São Paulo, *Clamor* was published by LAB in June 2023 with a launch event at Lumen in Central London featuring many old friends of LAB as well as friendly new faces.



# ARTICLE SERIES



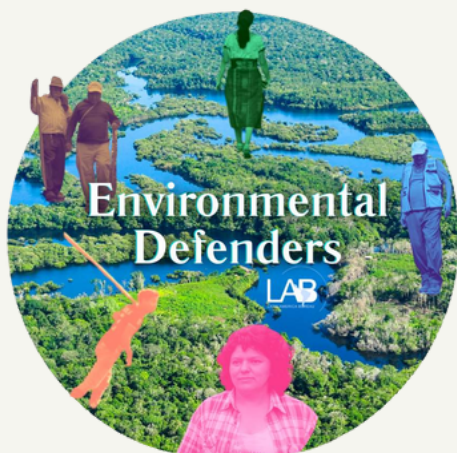
## Environmental Defenders Series

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 was launched in December 2021 by Katie Jones. By March 2023, 20 articles (original articles and translated pieces) had been published, covering the work of environment defenders in Ecuador, Mexico, India/Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador, Bolivia, Guatemala, The Amazon, Peru, Brazil and Nicaragua. A successful funding application for future work was submitted to the LUSH Charity Pot. We are seeking further funds to continue the work.

Current publishing partners include **No Ficción** (Guatemala), **Contracorriente** (Central America), **Mongabay** (LatAm), **Agência Pública** (Brazil), **CLIP** (Central America), **Amazônia Latitude** (Brazil) and **Peru Support Group** (UK).

## Agência Pública

Three articles were added to this series provided by Agência Pública, an independent journalists' network based in São Paulo. Most articles were translated from Portuguese for LAB by Matty Rose. Some also appeared on the **Mongabay US** website.



## Jan Rocha's Blog

Jan contributed 11 articles during the year to her long-running series about Brazilian politics.

LAB maintains regular contact with correspondents in the region, especially Dan Baron in Marabá Brazil who contributes periodic articles on this work with the Afro-Brazilian community in Marabá; and Linda Etchart who reports on environmental and indigenous struggles in Ecuador.

## Voz, LAB's quarterly guest-written dispatch

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. 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.

Subscriber-only guest-written pieces up to March 2023 included No 3. **Crossed Off The Map – Travels in Bolivia**, No 4. **Xiomara Castro – the First Hundred Days**; No 5. **The Covid-19 Pandemic – Survival**; No 6. **'They Cannot Erase Our Memory' – Commemoration, violence and the arts**; and No 7. **The Salar de Atacama, Chile – draining the desert**.

# 4

## RESEARCH

## ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT



LAB has continued to develop and expand its partnerships with university researchers, offering a range of services including website design, podcast production, event organisation, publishing, subtitling and 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, Metropolitan University, School of Economics, Queen Mary and University College; and overseas: Arizona, Florida State and New Mexico. LAB aims contributes 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. Special thanks to Cathy McIlwaine for her advice in this field.

### Women Resisting Violence project with King's College London

In November 2022, following on from the podcast, LAB and Practical Action Publishing published **the book Women Resisting Violence**. It was launched with an event at King's College in London. There were exhibits from some of the projects covered in the book, an exhibition of artworks by the artist who designed the book cover, and a panel of speakers from migrant and gendered violence organisations.

The [WRV blog](#), covering the many ways women are resisting violence in the continent, is ongoing.

In July 2023, Collective members reflected on learnings from the project.

Key policy recommendations used for lobbying policymakers were shared through a webinar in January 2023 and contact with networks such as Women in Development Europe [WIDE+], the UK GAD Network and the No More Foundation, among others.

Additional funding from KCL will enable LAB to translate the book into Portuguese and Spanish, aimed at Latin American audiences. Both translated editions will be published in 2024.

A purple-themed promotional graphic for an online webinar. At the top right, there are logos for LAB Latin America Bureau and WIDE+ (Women in Development Europe). The main text is in white and yellow, providing details about the webinar: 'ONLINE WEBINAR', 'MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE RESISTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/ MUJERES MIGRANTES EN EUROPA RESISTIENDO LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO', '26 JANUARY / ENERO 2023', and '5 PM-7 PM CET'. Below this, there are two columns of text in white, one in English and one in Spanish, describing the webinar's focus on gender-based violence against migrant women. At the bottom, there is a 'SPEAKERS' section with four circular headshots and names: Silvina Monteros Obelar (Red Latinas), Elizabeth Jiménez-Yáñez (Step Up Migrant Women), Marilyn Thomson (LAB), and Jennifer Kamau (International Women Space). A hashtag '#RatifytheIstanbulConvention' is displayed in a white box. At the very bottom, it says 'ONLINE FREE ACCESS. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ACCESS ZOOM LINK'.

## Moving Forward with Universities of Southampton and York

In August 2022, LAB began work on a [photobook](#) *Moving Forward – Health, care and violence seen through the eyes of displaced Venezuelan women in Brazil*. We edited and published two editions, one in English and Spanish and a second in Portuguese and Spanish. The [books](#) were published in May and June 2023. Both editions were made available Open Access, i.e. free to download globally. They were accompanied by a documentary film subtitled by LAB, which was shortlisted for Best Foreign Documentary at WRPN Women's International Film Festival.

LAB organised a screening of the film at the brand new **Sisterhood Festival** in Bradford Libraries, bringing stories of Venezuelan women migrants to a UK audience of predominantly South Asian women.

LAB also arranged for Natalia Cintra, one of the authors of the photobook and investigators on the project, to present a talk at the London Spanish Book and Zine Fair titled 'Creating and publishing a multilingual photo book on women's experiences of migration'.






WEBINAR Y MUESTRA DE CORTOMETRAJE:

**RECUPERANDO Y CELEBRANDO LA HERENCIA DE LAS MUJERES AFROECUATORIANAS:**

(NARRATIVAS VISIBLES E INVISIBLES DE UNA INVESTIGACIÓN FEMINISTA, DESCOLONIAL Y TRANSNACIONAL.)

FECHA: MIERCOLES 10 DE MAYO DE 2023

HORA: 10:00 AM

Online  
(ENLACE EN LA PUBLICACIÓN) [WWW](#)

**RECLAMA**  
RECUPERANDO Y CELEBRANDO  
LA HERENCIA DE LAS MUJERES  
AFRO-ECUATORIANAS

## RECLAMA (Harnessing Afro-Ecuadorian Women's Heritage) with Northumbria University

LAB began work on a British Academy-funded project documenting Afro-Ecuadorian women's heritage within Ecuador and further afield.

LAB subtitled a short film series into English and Portuguese (March 2023) and helped organise, host and provide interpreting for an international webinar in Spanish and Portuguese: *RECUPERANDO Y CELEBRANDO LA HERENCIA DE LAS MUJERES AFRO*.

LAB is currently organising an in-person event in London for June 2024 presenting the project to a local audience including London-based anti-racist organisations, and a short film programme featuring one of the films made by Mujeres de Asfalto collective as part of the project.



## CAMeNA series with University of Lancaster

While not funded, this has been a fruitful collaboration. Two further articles were added to [the series on LAB's website](#) which expands on documents contained within the Academic Center for the Memory of Our America collection at the Autonomous University of Mexico City (CAMeNA). We posted new articles around the most intense and dangerous phase of repression in El Salvador, leading up to the 1992 Peace Accords, and on the histories of Pancho Villa and El Ché.

## Women Resisting Violence Conference with London Metropolitan University

After long delays because of the pandemic, the conference, which LAB helped to define in its initial stages, was held at LMU, London, in March 2023. LAB supplied speakers about Chile Solidarity and women resisting violence in Latin America and the UK.

## Environmental Defenders in Peru webinar with Peru Support Group

Alongside the Peru Support Group, LAB organised a well-attended webinar on 20 October 2022, entitled 'Environmental Defenders in Peru Today'. The panel included Katie Jones from LAB's Environmental Defenders series; Josep Iborra Plans, the Amazon coordinator for the Brazilian Comissão Pastoral da Terra; Barbara Fraser from Earthbeat and the National Catholic Reporter; Andrea Bernal from the

Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica (CAAAP); and Teresita Antazu, from the Yanasha community in Peru and a leader of the Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (Aidesepe). The meeting was chaired by John Crabtree from the PSG.

## Solidarity with Latin America Conference with University of Liverpool

On 4-5 April 2022, in partnership with the University of Liverpool, LAB organised a conference with academic scholars and solidarity practitioners presenting both research and practical experiences of international solidarity with Latin America from the Cold War to the present day. LAB's Mike Gatehouse gave a keynote address.

In addition, LAB has ongoing partnerships and discussions about future projects with University of East Anglia, Florida State University, Queen Mary University of London, London School of Economics.

◆ **Solidarity with**  
LATIN AMERICA

ARITY

Maintaining momentum, holding leaders to account and building alliances.

Keynote Address by Mike Gatehouse, and presentations from Music for Hope, researchers and solidarity practitioners.

Register now:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/solidarity-with-latin-america-tickets-276566607167>



# 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.

LAB has around 36 Patrons, who contribute in total only £190 per month. This number has fluctuated throughout, with people joining and others leaving. So far, LAB has not succeeded in converting more than a few of the 1,300+ subscribers to our free newsletter to become regular paying subscribers, and the proffered rewards (subscription to Voz and free copies of some LAB books) have not tempted many to join.

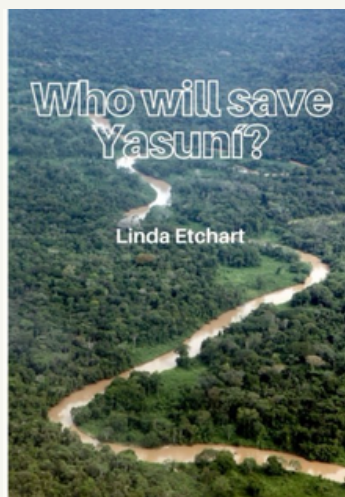
Although the Voz series has been enjoyable to publish and has helped garner interest in LAB's site thanks to commissioning articles from better-known writers and publishing extracts from LAB books as a form of promotion, it hasn't seemed to help us gain subscriptions. Future use of Patreon is under review.

# LAB'S WEBSITE

The website continues to grow, improve and attract new visitors. It has become clear that, alongside the newsletter, it is an essential part of LAB's work.

We have a range of sub-sites, multimedia material, series and articles.

Lab.org.uk received 84,000 views from March 2022- March 2023, a majority of which came from the USA.



"Nowadays things are resolved in Ecuador by killing. [Presidential candidate Fernando] Villavicencio was denouncing the oil contracts and the corruption, especially of former President Correa, and he got killed."

# SOCIAL MEDIA

LAB's **Twitter** following has grown. We now have 3,700 followers and get about 10-15,000 'impressions' a month. In March 2023, our Twitter reach for the month was 22,000 accounts. During Covid this was often above 30,000 per month.

We have 1,277 followers on **Instagram**. Reels (short videos) about the WRV book received over 1,000 views each. Follower numbers continue to grow and LAB is able to capture wider audiences. We reached 25,000 accounts over period March 2022-23. Volunteers help to maintain the account and post around specific projects like the Heart of Our Earth and Environmental Defenders.

**Facebook** numbers have dropped this year. We assume people are using the platform less and less. 10,000 accounts reached March 22-23.

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

Our **newsletter** has 1,350+ subscribers. It continues to be a good way of sharing LAB news and articles. Volunteer Antonella Navarro took over writing the newsletter for a few months in 2023. Over 50% of the audience is based in the US.

# STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

## Staff

In this financial year we were able to pay only one member of staff, Rebecca Wilson, our Managing Editor. Her hours have fluctuated between 2.5 and 4 days per week, as our funding and projects allowed. As well as coordinating volunteers and translators, her work has focused on the Women Resisting Violence, ReGHID, RECLAMA and Environmental Defenders projects. She is based in and works from Bogotá, Colombia.

Alistair Clark moved to Brazil and resigned from his role as LAB Treasurer in early 2023. Hazel Plunkett, based in New York, generously agreed to become the new Treasurer.

Karoline Pelikan, mainly in Peru, remains LAB's Film Coordinator; Matty Rose is our in-house Agência Pública translator; Lizzy Sanders runs LAB's Instagram account, with assistance from Jamie Goodland on the Environmental Defenders series; and Tom Kissock-Mamede continues to support LAB webinars as a technician.

Special thanks to Verónica Menargues, Marcela Nicolao and all of our regular interpreters for their skilled and professional interpreting at a

whole range of LAB webinars in 2022-23, and to Marcela López-Levy, LAB's Chair, Mike Gatehouse the other members of LAB's editorial team and LAB's Council, for their support.

## Volunteers

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

Thanks to the CAMeNA project, a student from University of Lancaster volunteered with LAB for two months in early 2023, specifically helping to disseminate The Heart of Our Earth, alongside LAB volunteer Hughie Stanley. Valentina Hernández Gómez completed a three-month internship with LAB in 2022, strengthening her translation and journalism skills. Rachel Stevenson helped LAB with grant writing leading to us securing funding from LUSH. Antonela Navarro took over writing LAB's newsletter for a few months.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LATIN AMERICA BUREAU

[lab.org.uk](http://lab.org.uk)



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