



# LATIN AMERICA BUREAU

## Achievements and Performance Report



2024-2025

# Introduction

Dear LAB Supporters and Readers,

It's a great pleasure to share with you the report of highlights from LAB's 2024/2025 financial year, showcasing the quality and range of work we've produced in this period. We hope you will share with us in celebrating the quality and commitment of our volunteers who contribute much of our capacity and output, coordinated by our Managing Editor Rebecca Wilson.

We are very proud of our ongoing publishing programme, as well as the range of in-person and online events and collaborations with grassroots activists and universities. We continue to develop innovative ways to publish books, working closely with authors, researchers, and translators to bring quality non-fiction (and sometimes also fiction) to the widest possible readership.

Our work is supported by an active online presence, with our website growing in readers and reach, as well as connecting to thousands via social media channels.

LAB continues to thrive and develop through successful collaborations and we welcome inquiries about potential joint projects from organisations that align with LAB's mission to share analysis of the politics of Latin America from the perspective of social justice and people in the region.

Please share this report with your networks and friends and join us in our work via collaborating with us or donating if you can.

Thank you for celebrating our achievements with us and we look forward to another year of successful projects.

Warmly,

*Marci López Levy, Chair of LAB Council*

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# BOOKS

## Practical Action Publishing

Our partnership with Practical Action Publishing (PAP), in place since 2014, is key to LAB's publication of books. All new LAB titles since 2014 have been co-publications, with PAP taking on all the tasks involved in the physical production and distribution of books in both print and ebook formats. PAP uses Ingram Books as its worldwide distributor and is able to arrange local printing of all titles.

Bestselling titles this year were *Crossed Off the Map* by Shafik Meghji, *The Amazon in Times of War* by Marcos Colón, *Women Resisting Violence* by WRV Collective, and *The Heart of Our Earth* by Tom Gatehouse. Older books continue to sell, including *K* by Bernardo Kucinski, *Voices of Latin America*, *Fight for the Forest Chico Mendes in His Own Words*, *Reyita* by Daisy Rubiera Castillo & Liz Dore, *Amazon Besieged* by Sue Branford, and *Women of Maize* by Guiomar Rivera.

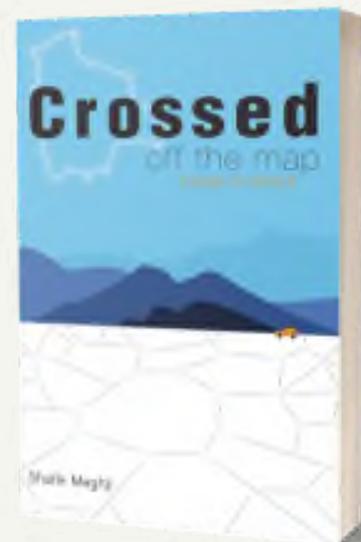
## Translation Rights

Rights to a Chinese edition of *Crossed Off the Map* were signed in 2025, with publication expected in March 2026.

*Women Resisting Violence* was translated into and published in Spanish and Portuguese, with Cita Press (USA) and Jandaíra (Brazil) respectively.

## Crossed Off the Map – Travels in Bolivia

Shafik Meghji's *Crossed Off the Map* was shortlisted for the Edward Stanford Travel Book of the Year 2023. In 2024, this LAB author went on to participate on the award panel. His LAB book continues to sell well, and is due to be translated into Chinese and published in March 2026. An extract from the book was also included in an anthology of South American travel writing published by Bradt.



# BOOKS

## The Amazon in Times of War

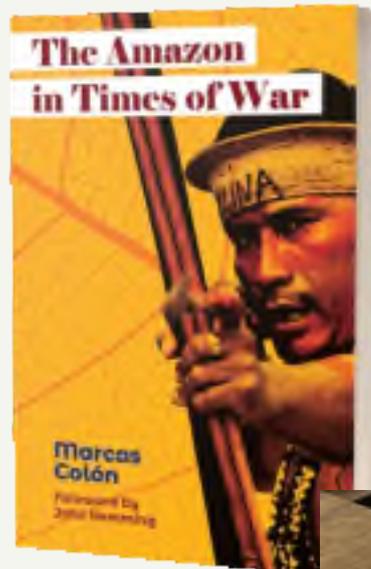
LAB was funded by US academic and Amazon expert Marcos Colón, to edit, publish, and promote his book, the culmination of his research at the State Universities of Florida and Arizona and at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication.

The Amazon in Times of War is a collection of essays featuring first-hand accounts that detail physical assaults and economic and institutional harm against the ‘lungs of the earth’, the Amazon region. The essays traverse diverse themes while adhering to a chronological sequence, zeroing in on a pivotal period commencing in 2018 when Jair Bolsonaro assumed the presidency of an already fragmented nation. His calculated political agenda aimed at the obliteration of the world’s largest biome and its peoples, which encompasses nine South American nations. Bolsonaro was consequently dubbed the “Trump of the Tropics.” Marcos Colón denounces this destruction and calls for the protection of the rainforest and its inhabitants.

“A powerful call for humanity to heed the voices of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon, to learn from them, and to act now.” – Fiona Watson, Campaigns Director, Survival International.

The book was published in October 2024 and reviewed in The Latin American Review of Books, ReVista Harvard Review, Nómadas, and Amazonia

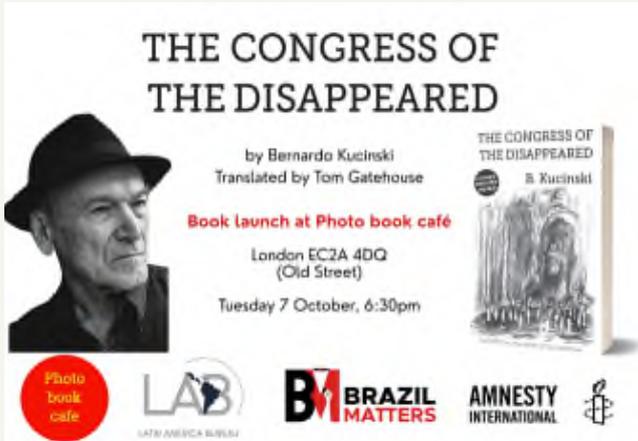
Latitude. Marcos Colón, the author spoke at the sold-out launch event in London, as well as at Cambridge University, King’s College London, University College London, St Andrews University, and Edinburgh University as part of his book tour organised by LAB. On his return to the United States, he also gave a talk at The Walter Cronkite Institute of Journalism at Arizona State University.). Marcos Colón was also interviewed about the book on The Brazilian Report and The Latin American History podcasts.



# BOOKS

## The Congress of the Disappeared

In July 2024, LAB was awarded a grant from English PEN to support Tom Gatehouse's translation of Bernardo Kucinski's novella *The Congress of the Disappeared*, from Portuguese to English. The book is part political essay, part ghost story. Tom said: "The Congress of the Disappeared traces a line from the state violence of the present and the recent past (particularly the dictatorship period in Brazil), all the way back to the genocide and slavery that underpinned Spanish and Portuguese colonialism in Latin America. It's a powerful call to action, demanding that we rescue these victims (many of them nameless) from historical oblivion, and settle accounts with the perpetrators".



**THE CONGRESS OF THE DISAPPEARED**

by Bernardo Kucinski  
Translated by Tom Gatehouse

**Book launch at Photo book café**

London EC2A 4DQ  
(Old Street)

Tuesday 7 October, 6:30pm

Photo book café LAB Latin America Bureau BM BRAZIL MATTERS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



'They came from all corners of the country.  
At last the Brazil of the disappeared  
revealed itself.'

**THE CONGRESS OF THE DISAPPEARED**  
B. Kucinski

by Bernardo Kucinski  
translated by Tom Gatehouse

LAB  
LATIN AMERICA BUREAU

WINNER ENGLISH PEN AWARD

# PROJECTS

## Research Engagement and Impact (REI)

LAB offers a comprehensive list of services to university researchers. These include publishing single articles or series; translation, editorial and training for writers; custom websites; and books describing research but aimed at a general readership and priced affordably. REI projects include:

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

The project led to a [multilingual podcast](#), [book](#) and [article series](#). In the past year a [short films programme](#) was developed and screened at the National Film Archive of Chile and at Brixton House Theatre in London. The films showcase the rich crossover between independent filmmaking and academic research projects. Women tell their stories of resistance, with art often used as a tool for healing and expression. The programme mixes performance, documentary, interview and animation. Some films focus on women's resistance to racism and discrimination — through beauty, the arts, and collective creative practices. Many share Latin American women's experiences of migration/displacement (whether internationally or within their own countries) and the ways in which women resist violence on their migration journeys. Examples include weaving arpilleras to tell their stories through collage and handiwork, engaging in

collective photography and dance to recognise personal strength, and making empowering theatre in unity with other women.

The book has been translated into Spanish and published by Open Access feminist publisher [Cita Press](#), and translated into Portuguese and published by Sao Paulo publisher [Jandaíra](#), which focuses on feminism, antiracism, and diversity. In November 2024, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Cathy McIlwaine (King's College London), Marilyn Thomson (Latin America Bureau), and Carolina Cal and Simone Amorim (MinA Theatre) presented the project to students, researchers, and tutors at Cambridge University.



# PROJECTS

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

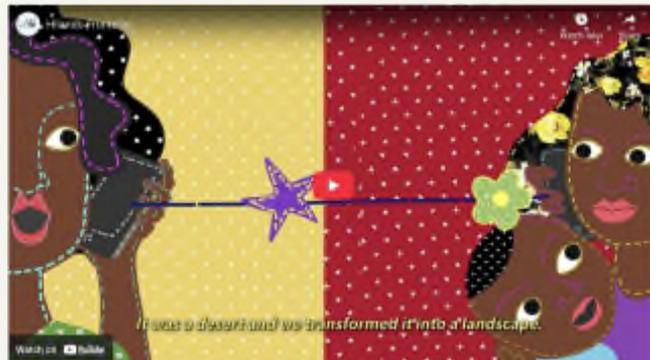
RECLAMA documents Afro-Ecuadorian women’s heritage in Esmeraldas province, Ecuador. The project produced a number of short films, an art exhibition, a recipe book and photo collection. In June 2024, LAB hosted an event at Brixton House Theatre in London where women from the Ecuadorean organisation introduced the project to an audience of local members of the Black community, local Latin American migrants, students and LAB readers. There was a live dance performance from local group Somos Chibchas, a screening of the short film from the project, Soberanía Alimentaria (Food Sovereignty), and an exhibition of RECLAMA artworks. Here is some feedback from the event:

*“Many women are quietly suffering all types of violence. Watching these films, I feel part of a network.”*

*“We don’t have to feel this pain alone, we can feel it together.”*

## Hilos Fronterizos (Borderland Threads) with LSE Latin America and Caribbean Centre, Universidad de Chile and the British Academy

Hilos Fronterizos collected arpilleras and testimonies created by Colombian women migrants living in Antofagasta, Chile. The project produced arpillera exhibitions and a short film, which forms part of the WRV short films programme screened at Brixton House Theatre and the National Film Archive of Chile. LAB edited translations and designed and hosted the website.



# ARTICLE SERIES

## Environmental Defenders

The Environmental Defenders series, edited by Rebecca Wilson, was funded by LUSH up until March 2024 and extended with volunteer support from April 2024 - March 2025. In 2024-5, 22 articles were published and a documentary film released in which four environmental defenders discuss their territorial work and the Americas-wide alliance for racial and climate justice. LAB contributors volunteered their time to write original EDs articles and translate articles from partner outlets to be republished.

The EDs short film *The Future is in our Territories* went on to be awarded Best Activist Message in the Environmental Documentary Short category Mexico City's Festival Internacional de Cine Animal y Ambiental. The festival stated, "Your project is a remarkable example of cinema that seeks to raise awareness and drive meaningful change." This is a testament to the articulate, brave activists we collaborated with and their messages for the world. The film was also used as a tool to stimulate conversation in Amazonian riverine communities around conservation, rights, diversity and identity thanks to its screening at KANUA Festival (featured in [The Guardian here](#)), which brings cinema on a solar-powered canoe to remote communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, enabling access to film in the communities, creating dialogue with and

cultural exchange between diverse Amazonian audiences, and offering community workshops around film and solar energy. The film has since been screened at Amazine Shorts festival (online); FestiVer green film festival in Colombia; Salut, Drets, Accio festival in Barcelona; and has won the My Name is Climate Film Festival Audience Award and the Tulum World Environment Film Festival Environment Conservation Short Film award.

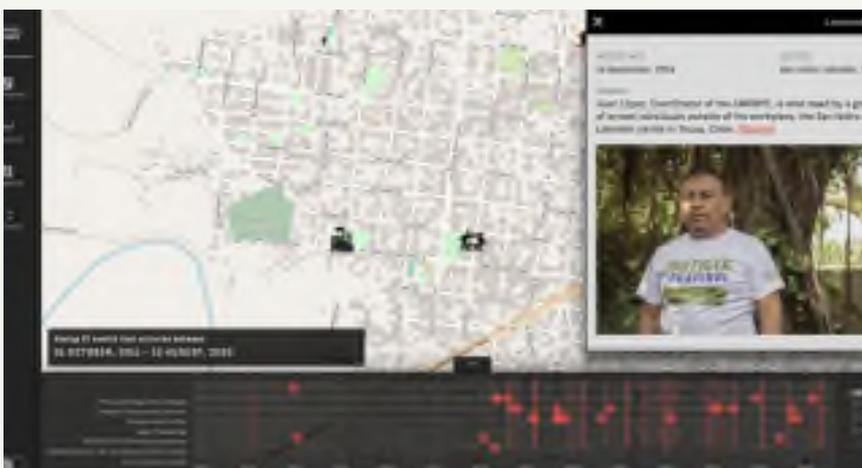
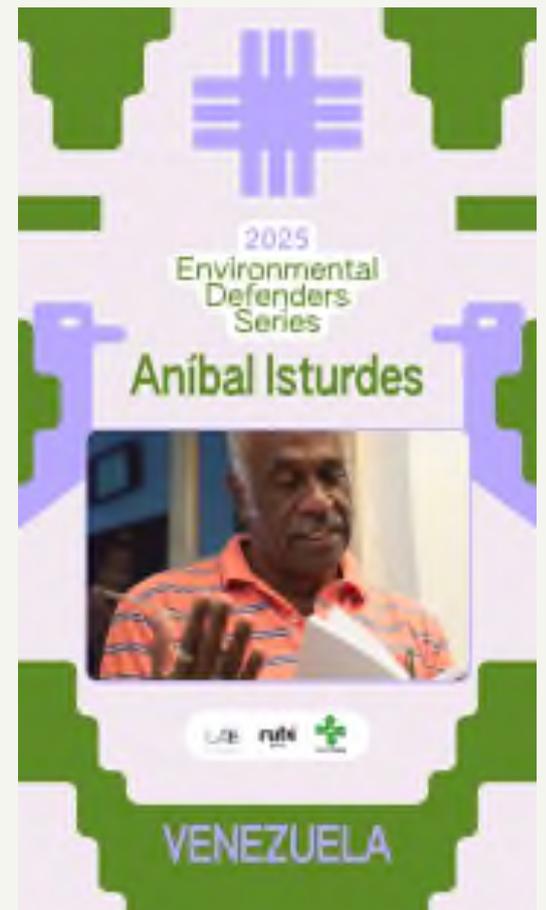


# ARTICLE SERIES

## Environmental Defenders

Further project funding was secured from the Network for Social Change Charitable Trust to continue the EDs series into 2025. A partnership with Global Voices, an international media organisation, will help us to increase our pool of writers in Latin America, to translate their articles, and simultaneously to publish in their original languages. We will work with two Indigenous journalists reporting from their communities. The stories will be commissioned, edited, and published between May and October 2025. LAB will develop social media videos linked to the stories with the help of our partner Rubi Group, a Latin America-focused communications agency. Posting these articles to Global Voices’ website – which receives 385,500 website visitors per month – in Spanish and English will significantly increase the reach and impact of these articles, as will our social media content led by Rubi Group. All this work will enable us to reach readers globally and support Environmental Defenders’ campaigns.

Most of the impact of the EDs work came after 1 April 2025 and will be detailed in next year’s report. It included: interviewees’ participation at New York Climate Week, the Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas; Survival International’s report on logging affecting the Mashco Piro in Peru; an interactive tool to help in the fight for water and life in Guapinol, Honduras; and a petition to clean up toxic waste in Arica, Chile.



# ARTICLE SERIES

## Voz

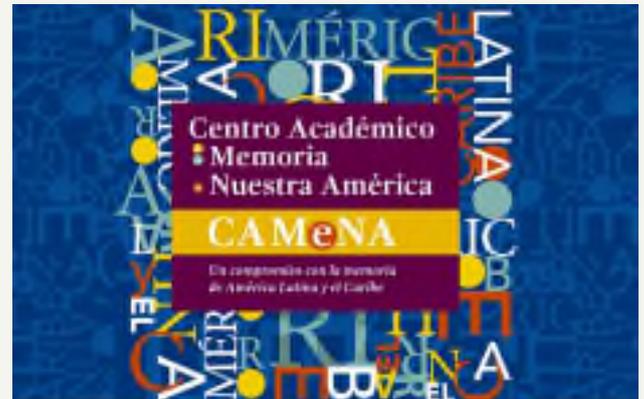
LAB’s long-read, guest-written dispatch was originally a quarterly publication initially available only to LAB Patrons (higher-level subscribers via Patreon). Voz has now been made free. Voz IX. March 2024. ‘I watched as bonfires of books and papers were burned’, by Tom Gatehouse. This was an interview with Mike Gatehouse (Tom’s father and one of LAB’s editors) who lived in Chile in 1973 and was taken prisoner after the military coup and held in the National Stadium.



LAB QUARTERLY DISPATCH

## CAMeNA with University of Lancaster

CAMeNA is an ongoing [article series](#) based on documents and testimonies held in the Centro Académico Memoria Nuestra América (CAMeNA), at the Universidad Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM). A podcast episode is planned for release in 2025/26.



## Jan Rocha’s Blog

LAB correspondent Jan Rocha continues to contribute up-to-the-minute news and analysis from São Paulo, with posts including ‘Kopenawa, Krenak, Kayapo’ (April 2024), ‘Rio Grande do Sul under water’ (May 2024), ‘Brazil: new onslaught against Indigenous groups’ (July 2024), and ‘Has the Amazon reached its tipping point?’ (October 2024).



# 4

# EVENTS

Thanks to our bookstalls manager, [Bill McLellan](#), and our volunteer bookseller [Lizzy Sanders](#), [LAB attended the London Spanish Book Fair](#) in October 2024.



LAB and Kayeb began planning the event 'Voices from the Amazon: our stories, our solutions', in partnership with the COP30 Committee and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. A day of talks, films, and workshops to be held in June 2025 at Rich Mix in London during London Climate Action Week bringing together environmental activists and artists from local, Indigenous, rural, and urban communities of the Amazon region to share their perspectives and wisdom in the discussion of the global climate crisis.



## LAB'S WEBSITE

LAB's website remains central to all of LAB's work. Around 100 new posts were added during the year. As mentioned above, various projects, books, and article series have their own dedicated webpage within LAB's website lab.org.uk. LAB's website received 46,000 visitors from 187 countries between April 2024 - March 2025. The majority of users were based in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, China, Canada, Brazil, the Netherlands, France, Mexico, and Chile. LAB's website appears 180,000+ times per month in search engines globally.

## NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletters published throughout the year and written by Rebecca Wilson and subsequently by LAB volunteer Freddie Stone, were sent to our approximately 1,300 subscribers. Most subscribers continue to receive the newsletter for free, though we often remind subscribers of the importance of becoming 'LAB supporters' or 'Friends of LAB' by making a regular donation via CAFDonate.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

LAB's social media accounts have continued to grow steadily, especially on Instagram, where we now reach 15-25,000 accounts per month, and on LinkedIn, where many of our contributors prefer to post.



# 6

# STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



## Staff

During this financial year we were able to retain the services of Rebecca Wilson, our Managing Editor working as a freelance consultant. Her hours fluctuated as our funding, projects, and work-in-hand dictated. She is mainly resident in Colombia, but remains connected by email and on WhatsApp and has been able to bring to LAB her local contacts and opportunities from the region. As an increasingly geographically distributed organisation, we have found strength in having our regular post-holders and council members in Latin America and the US as well as in the UK. Our Bookkeeper (Jen Wilde), Web Manager (Wes Boden), and Author Royalties Manager (Izzy Jones) support us in consultancy roles.

## Volunteers

LAB continued to benefit from a large panel of volunteers and consultants which includes over 180 writers; translators; book sales assistants (Lizzy Sanders) and a print books distribution manager (Bill McLellan); film reviews editor (Karoline Pelikan); and volunteers on current projects, especially Environmental Defenders. Our panel of experienced editors and contributors includes Sue Branford, Linda Etchart, Mike and Tom Gatehouse, Grace Livingstone, Jan Rocha and Fiona Watson. Our Managing Editor is Rebecca Wilson and our Editor-at-Large, Mike Gatehouse.

# 7 FINANCES

## Overview



LAB is funded by individuals, universities, and foundations. In particular, a dedicated group of over 25 people provides LAB with dependable income through standing orders and platforms for online giving including Just Giving and CAFDonate. Commitments to giving on a regular basis allows us to underwrite essential operational services, including the design and maintenance of LAB's website, upkeep of our accounts, and the management of projects, volunteers, and fundraising.

In an extremely challenging economic environment, LAB has worked hard to retain and increase existing individual and institutional donors, and secure funding for specific initiatives and publications. A grant from the Network for Social Change Charitable Trust (NSCCT) awarded in November 2024 has supported the extension of LAB's impactful Environmental Defenders series. This is LAB's second grant from NSCCT, which co-funded The Heart of the Earth project in 2023.

LAB also secured grants in this period from English PEN and the Fundação da Biblioteca Nacional, Brazil, to translate, publish, and promote Bernardo Kucinski's *The Congress of the Disappeared*. With funding from Kings College London and Northumbria University, LAB is participating in Feminist Action, a knowledge-sharing initiative on approaches to preventing and addressing gender-based and racialised violence.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LATIN AMERICA BUREAU



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