WITH THE JULY 2006 UPCOMING PRESIDEN- 

tal election in Mexico, the LLILAS Mexican 

center held two conferences to analyze what 

termed Mexico’s first “normal” demo- 

cratic election, although anticipated to be 

highly contested. The first conference, held 

September 8–9, 2005, on Accountability and 

the Rule of Law in Mexico on the Threshold 

of the 2006 Elections, examined the stability 

and capacity of the Mexican institutional 

system to guarantee a democratic and effec- 

tive electoral process. The conference was 

co-sponsored with ILASSA–Mexico, as well 

as the University of Texas Law School and 

the LBJ School of Public Affairs. 

On February 3, 2006, the Mexican Center 

held its second conference, Political Parties 

and Voters in Mexico’s 2006 Elections, to examine 

the three leading presidential candidates from 

the PAN, PRD, and PRI and the substance of 

their campaigns. Issues were looked at from 

two perspectives. A “view from below” based 

on the finding of a new panel survey designed 

to tap voters’ opinions and preferences was 
given by scholars. This was complemented by a “view from above” by party representatives, the International Affairs Coordinators of the PRI (Samuel Aguilar), PRD (Saúl Escobar), and PAN (Senadora Cecilia Romeros), who discussed platforms and strategies. The elec- 
tion did prove itself to be the closest yet and 
to test fully the Mexican electoral institutions 
to handle the crisis in determining the valid- 
ity of the next president of Mexico. 

The Center for Indigenous Languages of 

Latin America (CILLA), established at LLILAS 
in 2001 to contribute to knowledge on these 
languages, to promote their maintenance, 
and to coordinate teaching programs in and 
about indigenous languages, is the first of 

its kind in the United States. On October 

27–29, 2005, CILLA held its Second Confer- 

ence on Indigenous Languages of Latin America 

with participants coming from Argentina, 

Brazil, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Mexico, 

the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Venezuela, 

and the United States. Keynote speakers 

included: Judith Aissen, University of Cali- 

fornia, Santa Cruz; Jon Landsberger, CNRS, 

CELIA; Sergio Meira, Universiteit Leiden; 

and Valentin Peralta, Universidad Nacional 

Autónoma de México. The three days of panel 
discussions deepened the discourse and fur- 
thered scholarship on both the linguistic and 
social aspects of a spectrum of indigenous 

languages from the region. 

CILLA is also building online resources with the CILLA Papers on Latin American Indigenous Languages, an electronic publi- 
cation series featuring papers by UT faculty and students and invited scholars. Papers can 
be accessed at: http://lanic.utexas.edu/proj- ect/etext/llilas/cilla/. 

Also of special note was the 26th Annual Student Conference on Latin America of 

ILASSA (Institute of Latin American Studies, the Center for Mexican American Studies, the 

Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, the 

Center for Latin American Studies, the 

Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, and 

John McKiernan-Gonzalez, with support 

from the College of Liberal Arts, LLILAS, the 

Center for Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA) and the LBJ School of 

Public Affairs). The student conference on 

Latin America is the oldest and largest Latin 

American studies student conference in the 

United States. 

The third annual Abriendo Brecha/Open- 

ing a Path conference on activist scholarship 

was held at UT on February 16–18, 2006. An 

ambitious and innovative mix of paper pre- 

sentations, performances, and workshops, the 

conference addressed current and long-term 

trends in research and creative intellectual 

work aligned with communities, organiza- 

tions, and movements working for social 

justice. The goal was to provide participants 

with a bridge between their scholarly pursuits 

and their political convictions. 

More than 35 sessions, workshops, and 

performances over the three-day period 

addressed such varied issues as diasporic 

identity, the politics of crisis response, and 
generating activism through education. A 

workshop facilitated in part by Karen Eagle 

LLILAS HAS BEEN THE PROUD HOST TO 16 CONFERENCES 

AND SYMPOSIA THROUGHOUT THE 2005–2006 ACADE- 

MIC YEAR. THESE GATHERINGS LARGE AND SMALL 

BRING TOGETHER SCHOLARS, BUSINESS LEADERS, AND 

POLICYMAKERS FROM ACROSS THE AMERICAS. HERE ARE 

SUMMARIES OF JUST A FEW OF THE MANY EXCELLENT 

CONFERENCES SPONSORED BY LLILAS IN THE PAST YEAR.

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