

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The LAI offers an interdisciplinary Master's program. A range of options are available to Bachelor of Arts' students to deepen disciplinary and regional expertise through 30-credit modules on: "Latin American Studies" and "Portuguese-Brazilian Studies", BA "Social and Cultural Anthropology" and BA "Spanish Philology and Hispano-American Literature".

MASTER'S PROGRAM

INTERDISCIPLINARY LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

This Master's program began in 2005 and has the aim of giving students regional and intercultural competence enabled by an understanding local, national, transregional and global processes. The Master's program is research-oriented and links problem-oriented interdisciplinary training with a disciplinary specialization. The LAI gives students a high level of regional expertise grounded in the concept of area studies.



foto: Vitoscha Königs

PH.D. PROGRAMS

Currently there are over 120 doctoral students in the various disciplines at the LAI; around half are studying in structured Ph.D. programs. The Ph.D. program "Latin American Studies from a Comparative and Transregional Perspective" was introduced in 2008. International students make up over 30 percent of the junior researchers.

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Institute for Latin American Studies

Freie Universität Berlin



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THE INSTITUTE

The Institute for Latin American Studies (LAI) at Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1970 as an interdisciplinary center for teaching and research. The LAI is one of the leading European institutes for Latin American studies. It offers a vibrant combination of research, teaching and the support of junior researchers in an international context. Six social science and cultural studies disciplines teach regional expertise as well as knowledge and skills specific to these disciplines:

- Cultural and Social Anthropology
- History
- Literatures and Cultures of Latin America
- Economics
- Sociology
- Political Science



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RESEARCH

The Institute also contributes to recent debates in Area Studies. It uses the following four research strategies in the context of its research profile: Latin America: Entanglements and Translations.

- Linking area studies and the disciplines;
- Cooperation between Cultural Studies and Social Sciences;
- Focus on processes of transformation, transculturation and translation;
- Interrelational historical approaches and historical perspective.



The LAI is the site of the first bilateral German-Mexican International Research Training Group (IRTG) "Between Spaces. Movements, Actors and Representations of Globalization". This IRTG has been funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) since 2009. The IRTG opens up new perspectives for research into social science and cultural studies research on globalization through dialog among the disciplines and between the diverse academic traditions of Germany and Mexico.



designALdades.net is an interdisciplinary, international, multi-institution research network on social inequalities in Latin America, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The LAI and the Ibero-American Institute (IAI) of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Berlin, are in overall charge of the research network.



The Brazil Research Center, founded in 2010, focuses on projects and research activities in the fields of cultural studies and social science from the common perspective of "Brazil in a global context".

COOPERATION

The LAI is the largest German-speaking institute for research on Latin America, providing students and visiting scholars with an excellent international and interdisciplinary environment for study and research. Staff members participate in continuous exchanges with renowned scholars, universities and research institutes. Currently the LAI is cooperating with more than fifty universities in Europe and the Americas in both teaching and research.



foto: Diana Grothues

Berlin as center of science and research is home to an impressive range of research institutes specialized on Latin America and other regions of the world; for example, the LAI is collaborating with the Latin America Berlin-Brandenburg Research Alliance (ForLaBB), the Center for Area Studies (CAS) at Freie Universität Berlin and the Transregional Studies Forum of the Berlin Institute for Advanced Studies. Close cooperation also exists with the Ethnological Museum of Berlin and the Ibero-American Institute (IAI) of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Berlin, which is the largest specialist library in Europe on Latin America, Spain and Portugal.