

UCSD Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies receives Mellon Foundation Grant

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UCSD CENTER FOR IBERIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES RECEIVES \$550,000 MELLON FOUNDATION GRANT

UCSD's Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS) has received a grant for \$550,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to promote the study of Latin America from a global and comparative perspective.

"This generous grant from the Mellon Foundation will make a powerful contribution to the field of Latin American studies at UCSD," said Peter H. Smith, the director of CILAS. "And, it will enable us to search for new ways of understanding Latin America's role in the changing world arena."

Implementation of the Mellon grant will begin with the development of three major streams of new research on Latin America: political democratization amid socio-economic crisis; the breakdown and transformation of one-party regimes; and Latin America's emerging relationship with the Pacific Rim.

According to Smith, the funds from the five-year grant will be allocated for field research and travel grants for UCSD scholars and students, fellowships for visiting scholars from Latin America and around the world, and for research workshops, special seminars and publications.

"We think it is especially important to support and strengthen the academic community in Latin America that has been so ravaged by the economic crisis of the 1980s," said Smith. "Therefore, we are putting an emphasis on visiting research fellowships and on collaborative workshops that will include publication of proceedings."

UCSD is recognized as a national leader in the field of Latin American studies. In addition to CILAS, several other academic resources on campus for Latin American studies will be involved in activities under the Mellon Program. They include: the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), the Center for U.S.- Mexican Studies, and the Institute of the Americas, a private organization that works closely with the university.

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