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The First Biennial Symposium on Teaching Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STILLA)

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The First Biennial Symposium on Teaching Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STILLA), organized by the Minority Languages and Cultures of Latin America Program (MLCP) and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), took place from August 14 to 16, 2008 at Indiana University at Bloomington. This symposium brought together instructors, practitioners, activists, indigenous leaders, scholars and learners from around the globe, and was the first initiative of this scope in the world. It included research and pedagogy on the diverse languages and cultures of indigenous populations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thus, STILLA 2008 engaged participants in a unique hemispheric dialogue that was promoted through active listening and discussion among professionals from around the world together with leading experts in the fields of Education, Language Policy and Planning, Theoretical Linguistics, Latin American Studies, Applied Linguistics, Ethnomusicology, Anthropology, Sociolinguistics, Linguistic Anthropology and Informatics devoted to the research and teaching of indigenous languages and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. Through multiple activities such as keynote addresses, special panels, videoconferences, interactive workshops, roundtable discussions, film screenings and musical performances, this symposium contributed to the teaching, learning, spread, maintenance, and revitalization of indigenous languages and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. For more details about the STILLA 2008 Program follow this link: <http://www.indiana.edu/~mlcp/stilla/images/STILLA-PROGRAM-2008.pdf>.

The Keynote Speakers were renowned experts in indigenous languages and cultures of Latin America, including Nora C. England from the University of Texas at Austin; Jean-Jacques Decoster from Centro TINKU, Cuzco, Peru; Rosaleen Howard from Newcastle University, UK, and Luis Enrique López from PACE, GTZ, Guatemala City, Guatemala. The introductory remarks were delivered by Patrick O'Meara, Vice President for International Affairs, and Bradley A. U. Levinson, Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, both of Indiana University. The organizers of the event, Serafín M. Coronel-Molina and John. H. McDowell, both of Indiana University, gave the closing remarks and conducted the General STILLA Meeting.

Among the unique events were international videoconferences conducted between participants in the Andes and Indiana University. These videoconferences included representatives of the Q'eros indigenous community from Cuzco, Peru, the author of the

documentary titled *Kusisqa Waqashayku*, ‘From Grief and Joy We Sing’, about the Q’eros community; representatives of the Regional Bureau of the Ministry of Education of Peru; Quechua instructors from Centro TINKU and Asociación Pukllasunchis based in Cuzco, Peru; and representatives of the Andahuaylas region. The participation of all of these people, as well as the Cámara de Comercio of Cuzco, the Centro TINKU of Cuzco, and the School of Education at Indiana University made these international videoconferences very successful.

The outcome of STILLA 2008 was proved to be successful thanks to the variety of individuals and institutions involved. The presentations were rich and insightful due to many interdisciplinary perspectives, and the majority of the sessions were videotaped for archival purposes. Selected video clips of STILLA 2008 will be published at <http://www.indiana.edu/~mlcp/stilla/index.php>. For information about STILLA 2008 press releases, visit the following links: <http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/8662.html> and http://education.indiana.edu/news_detail/tabid/10308/Default.aspx?xmId=199.

The General Meeting of STILLA 2008 was highly successful as well. During this meeting, the organizers suggested the creation of an association devoted to teaching and research of the indigenous languages of Latin America. This initiative was supported by all participants in this meeting. A committee of experts was established, composed of 10 people from various countries, who recommended the creation of the **Association of Teaching and Learning of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (ATLILLA)**. The committee also recommended changing the acronym STILLA to **STLILLA (Symposium on Teaching and Learning of Indigenous Languages of Latin America)**, since “learning” is a vital component of and counterpart to “teaching” and “research”. One of the intended purposes of ATLILLA will be to serve as a permanent forum for networking and exchanging ideas, experiences and research on pedagogical, methodological and practical issues from cross-disciplinary perspectives.

The success of this event was due in great part to the careful organization and planning that took place beforehand. Therefore, thanks are due to all those involved in these initial stages. The convenors of STILLA 2008 were Serafín M. Coronel-Molina (School of Education), John H. McDowell (Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology), and Jeffrey L. Gould (Department of History). They were ably assisted by graduate student assistants Eric Carbajal, Selina Morales, Kate Schramm, and by Webmasters Michael Grove and Chris Rosenthal.

Thanks are also due to all the co-sponsors, both within and outside of Indiana University, without whose support this event could not have taken place. The co-sponsors located at Indiana University were the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs; Department of Literacy, Culture, and Language Education in the School of Education; Indiana University Foundation, Indiana University Office of the Provost; Department of History; Department of Anthropology; Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The co-sponsors and partner institutions outside of Indiana University were the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), The Ohio State University, Columbus; Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (LACS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), University of Chicago, Illinois; The Helen Kellogg

Institute for International Studies (KI), University of Notre Dame, Indiana; and the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Center (LACIS), University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The success of this event will not be singular, given the follow-up plans already in process. In the months following the STILLA program, a draft of the ATLILLA Constitution was elaborated and shared with the committee of experts by e-mail, which was approved after much discussion and deliberation. Then the same committee recommended the nomination of the members of an ATLILLA Executive Committee. The following individuals were elected for the Executive Committee: Serafín M. Coronel-Molina, President, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana; Nancy H. Hornberger, Vice-President, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Jean-Jacques Decoster, Secretary, Centro Tinku, Cuzco, Peru. This Executive Committee is in charge of the implementation of several sub-committees and the nomination of their respective members. Future tasks that will be instigated are: the creation and development of a comprehensive Website, and an E-Journal and an E-Newsletter of the Association, and the legalization and implementation of ATLILLA as a non-profit organization. In addition, ATLILLA will be in charge of the organization of STLILLA 2012. Regarding STLILLA 2010, the Executive Committee will recommend which of the co-sponsors / partner institutions should take this responsibility.

The proceedings of STILLA 2008, to be edited by Serafín M. Coronel-Molina and John H. McDowell, will be published on *IUScholarWorks*, a repository of scholarly work with worldwide accessibility housed at Indiana University, and will also be made available electronically on the STILLA 2008 website (<http://www.indiana.edu/~mlcp/stilla/index.php>). More information about *IUScholarWorks* can be found at <http://scholarworks.iu.edu/>.

The outcome of STILLA 2008 was also presented by Serafín M. Coronel-Molina in the Title VI Evaluation Meeting at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at Indiana University in September 2009.

In future years, it is our hope that the **Association of Teaching and Learning of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (ATLILLA)** will become a permanent non-profit organization for the teaching, learning, and research of indigenous languages and cultures of Latin America. We also hope to establish it as a permanent entity for the promotion, revitalization and maintenance of the indigenous languages and cultures of the region. It is also our aspiration that the **Symposium on Teaching and Learning of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STLILLA)** will become a permanent biennial event, and be hosted in different locations in the years to come. We want to have an open-door policy that allows additional people and institutions with similar interests to join. Our ultimate vision is that the work we create and share through the new association and the biennial symposium will transcend academy walls and find space in the larger world community by giving all participants an opening to share their words and worlds in their own voices.