

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book grew out of an exploratory project called *Durable Inequalities in Latin America*, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and hosted at the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) Center at Stony Brook University between 2003–2006. The original idea was to take an urgent social problem—inequality in the Americas—one with a strong presence in the “social sciences,” and revisit it with emerging humanistic, cultural, and historical perspectives. Stony Brook became a bustling interdisciplinary site, with six residential visiting fellows, most of them from Latin American universities, who sparked a wide dialogue with our faculty, graduate students, and other new inequality study groups. For if there was one thing we discovered during these years of debate, it was that inequality is now an issue with a deep resonance among scholars, activists, and communities across the hemisphere. The recent election of Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States, in 2008, presaged by the democratic turn to the Left in much of Latin America and by the Bush-era global economic collapse, should lend further momentum to anti-inequality movements. The moment to confront inequality is here, but we need new intellectual tools and mobilizing strategies to do it. This book is a modest attempt at this retooling.

In terms of resources, we need to thank the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation’s (now redefined) Program in Creativity and Culture, especially the vision of the program officers Tomás Ybarra-Frausto and Scott MacDougall, who took a personal interest in the Stony Brook initiative, though it lay slightly off their usual map of concerns. Domenica Tafuro, our remarkable LACS administrative assistant, was active at all stages of the project—from helping to polish Gootenberg’s first proposal as then LACS director, to welcoming the fellows at Stony Brook, to aiding in the final editing of this book. Other offices of the university also supported the project: especially the College of Arts and Sciences (under the deans Bob Liebermann and James Staros), Office of the Provost, Graduate School, Linda Merians in University Advancement, the Humanities Institute (HISB), and the Departments of History, Sociology, and Hispanic Languages and Literature. The

most crucial individuals, besides our fellows, were an interdisciplinary team of “Latin Americanista” faculty who served on the selection committee and participated in seminars and a series of symposiums convened at Stony Brook’s Manhattan site. Most notable were Javier Auyero (formerly of sociology, who first suggested inequality as our topic and who contributes to this volume), Katy Vernon (Hispanic languages), Fred Moehn (music), and Eduardo Mendieta (philosophy), as well as Tim Moran (sociology), Tracey Walters (Africana studies), Tom Klubock and Brooke Larson (history), and the anthropologists Pamela Block and Karen Kramer. Said Arjoman and E. Ann Kaplan served as program advisors. We are also indebted to Eric Hershberg, then at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), who took an immediate interest in the initiative, served as the external member of the selection committee, participated in our events, linked us to other inequality study groups (such as the Princeton project of Jeremy Adelman and Miguel Centeno), and contributed the foreword to this collection. At one point, the legendary Columbia University sociologist Charles Tilly, who first lit this theme, played interlocutor to a memorable discussion at the SSRC around the “relational” and proactive nature of inequalities. Sadly, Tilly passed away in April 2008, as we were putting the final touches on this volume so influenced by his ideas. A string of graduate students in history worked as research assistants to the fellows: Gabriel Hernández, Consuelo Figueroa, Greg Jackson, Alberto Harambour, and Alexis Stern. Celina Bragagnolo, a graduate student in philosophy, helped with two of the book’s translations. Martín Monsalve, a historian now doctored and teaching in Lima, did a savvy job of organizing the multilingual publicity and applications process for the Durable Inequalities program, which garnered scores of fascinating applicants from across the globe.

At the center of this collective learning experience were six interdisciplinary visiting scholars: Jeanine Anderson (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), Luis Reygadas (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana [UAM], Iztapalapa, Mexico), Lucio Renno (Universidade de Brasília, Brazil), Odette Casamayor (Cuba, and now University of Connecticut, Storrs), Christina Ewig (University of Wisconsin, Madison), and Margaret Gray (Adelphi University), all represented in this volume. What a stimulating and committed team of colleagues! It is they who brought questions of inequality and now this book to life, born from papers presented at a fellows symposium held in May 2006.

Paul Gootenberg wants to especially thank his coeditor Luis Reygadas for his intellectual vision as well as his patience, insight, and skills in navigating

the shared tasks of criticism and editing. Mexico City and New York are now linked by an anthropologist and a historian from different academic cultures, even if our home universities share the same “statist” architecture. In 2005 the Mexican anthropological journal *Alteridades* published some of this volume’s essays in embryonic form in a special Spanish-language issue, “La desigualdad en América Latina” (14, no. 28 2004).

Luis Reygadas, in particular, wants to express his gratitude to the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for providing the sabbatical year for his research leave in New York, and Stony Brook–LACS, which hosted him during 2003–2004 with a Rockefeller fellowship in the Durable Inequalities in Latin America program. Eduardo Mendieta made valued comments on the first draft of the essay Reygadas contributed to this volume. Gabriel Hernández, who is a living example of overcoming inequality, worked as Reygadas’s research assistant at Stony Brook.

At Duke University Press, we thank Valerie Millholland for her timely nod to the project, as well as Miriam Angress, who was so indispensable in guiding the book through the editorial process. Many thanks to the excellent copy editor, Patricia Mickelberry, and to Amy Chazkel, who prepared the index. We also thank three insightful and sympathetic press readers, including John H. Coatsworth.