

Announcement of President Emeritus Awards to Professors Albert Fishlow and Nora Lustig

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association, LACEA, Professors Albert Fishlow and Nora Lustig will receive the title of *President Emeritus* in recognition of their role in the creation of the Association and their strong leadership and unwavering support henceforth.

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) was founded in July of 1992 in order to encourage greater professional interaction and foster increased dialogue among researchers and practitioners who focus their work on the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. LACEA has established itself as the leading association of economists interested in the problems of economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. LACEA has contributed to the adoption of better economic and social policies based on economic research. Professors Albert Fishlow and Nora Lustig have played a decisive role in helping LACEA achieve its goals.

Professor Lustig led the Organizing Committee appointed by the group of economists who, at a meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Washington DC in April 1991, envisaged such an association. The Organizing Committee quickly obtained enthusiastic support for the idea from a dozen leading scholars in the field, including Albert Hirschman, Eliana Cardoso, John Williamson, and Albert Fishlow himself. This early support was critical to the creation of LACEA. Soon after, under Nora Lustig's leadership, the Organizing Committee invited leading economists to join the initial Executive Committee, drafted the association's bylaws, and applied for membership of the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), officially launching LACEA. Over one hundred prominent economists from throughout the region were invited and accepted the invitation to be charter members of LACEA.

In 1993, the first Executive Committee was selected and Albert Fishlow, then professor at the University of California, Berkeley was invited to become the first



President of LACEA. Nora Lustig, then at the Brookings Institution, was selected as Vice-President. Soon after, LACEA became a member of the Allied Social Science Association and began to host sessions at the annual meetings of the American Economics Association, the Latin American Studies Association and the Latin American Meetings of the Econometric Society.^[1] In 1996, LACEA held its first annual meeting in Mexico City. Since, the meetings have taken place every year, attracting a growing number of participants.

Under Prof Lustig's presidency (1998-99), LACEA expanded its activities in several directions. In conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, it created the Network on Inequality and Poverty in 1998. It also started the Network on Political Economy and a series of seminars on International Economics and Finance, a joint initiative with the Center for International Economics at the University of Maryland. All these activities were carried out in conjunction with academic centers in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1999, LACEA announced the launching of a new academic Journal, *Economía*, which has become the outlet of choice for some of the best research on Latin America and is currently ranked 71st among nearly 2000 journals worldwide. Also during Prof Lustig's presidency, LACEA was awarded a major grant by the Development Grant Facility of the World Bank (later transformed into the Global Development Network), which gave support to the annual meetings, the research networks, and the journal.

Since 2000, Professors Fishlow and Lustig have played many influential roles in the Association, most importantly as advisors to the presidents and the Executive Committee, and as "goodwill" ambassadors of the Association before other international organizations and academic institutions. Every major initiative by LACEA has been blessed by their encouragement and support. The title of *President Emeritus* is a much deserved recognition of their leadership and commitment during these 25 years.

The award ceremony will take place in the context of the 2017 meeting of LACEA in Buenos Aires, November 10 (Hotel Inter-Continental, 12 PM).



Albert Fishlow is Professor Emeritus at both the University of California-Berkeley and Columbia University. He was a Paul A. Volcker Senior Fellow for International Economics at the Council of Foreign Relations and professor of economics and director of the Center for International & Area Studies at Yale University. He served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs from 1975 to 1976, and received the National Order of the Southern Cross from the government of Brazil in 1999. Fishlow's published research has addressed issues in economic history, Latin American development strategies, as well as economic relations between industrialized and developing countries. Since the 1960s he has written extensively about the Brazilian economy, with seminal contributions on the history and impact of import substitution, industrialization policies and debt crises, income distribution and social welfare, inflation and macroeconomic policies. His latest publication reflects on how the changes that Brazil has undergone over the last twenty years have transformed the social, political, economic, and diplomatic realms in that country and will affect its future.

Nora Lustig is the Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics at Tulane University where she heads the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Institute that she helped create in 2015. Her work on inequality and poverty in Latin America has been widely published and inspired younger generations to follow her path. Her book *Mexico: The Remaking of an Economy* became a classic reference for scholars interested in Latin American economic development. She serves on the G20 Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Global Financial Governance and is a non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development, the Inter-American Dialogue, and WIDER. Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Professor Lustig has spent most of her adult life in the United States and Mexico. She received her doctorate in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley and was a professor at El Colegio de Mexico, Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution, and Senior Advisor at the Inter-American Development Bank. Her current research centers on the impact of taxation and social spending on inequality and poverty; her most recent publication on the subject is *The Distributional Impact of Taxes and Transfers Evidence from Eight Low- and Middle-Income Countries*.