

L'ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE DES
SCIENCES SOCIALES SUR L'AMÉRIQUE
LATINE (AFSSAL)

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AFSSAL was created in June 1978 for "the promotion of research in the social sciences on Latin America, the establishment of a link between public and private research organizations and social scientists who work on Latin America, and the representation of those organizations and researchers with regard to national and international institutions." The creation of AFSSAL responded to the need of many researchers and academics in France who work at centers whose primary focus is not Latin America. Before 1978 there was no permanent structure for discussion and debate; neither was there a medium that would allow for the circulation of interdisciplinary information on research on Latin America undertaken in France. There was an obvious need to be able to examine together the possibilities for promoting interest in Latin America and developing the means available to social science researchers dedicated to the study of that region.

There are associations such as this in most European countries, but they usually bring together narrowly defined groups of social science specialists. We hope to open AFSSAL to a broader spectrum, representing all the specializations in Latin American civilization from Columbus to the present, so that its members may mutually enrich one another with the diversity and complementarity of their points of view. Naturally, we also welcome anthropologists and archaeologists devoted to the pre-Columbian era without, of course, trying to replace the Society of Americanists, so distinguished and active under the leadership of Jacques Soustelle; neither do we wish to compete with the Society of French Hispanicists, which brings together French specialists on the languages, literatures, and civilizations of the Iberic world; nor the Society of French Lusitanists, which brings together its counterparts of the Luso-Brazilian world.

Each year, at the end of November, a General Assembly elects an Administrative Council, which chooses a Board of Directors responsible for committees. There are two categories of committees—regions (An-

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dean countries, the Caribbean, Central America, etc.) and fields (history, sociology, political science, etc.). The Council also appoints correspondents in the provinces and abroad. The Association is currently represented in many Latin American countries and francophone nations. Naturally, AFSSAL maintains ties with CEISAL (European Council of Social Research on Latin America), on which it represents France, and with AHILA (Association of European Latin Americanist Historians), whose delegate from France is currently the president of AFSSAL. Ties are also maintained with foreign organizations concerned with Latin America, such as LASA.

The Assembly of November 1978 served primarily to organize the Association. In 1979 a round table was added, dedicated to the state of French research on the different regions of Latin America. The proceedings of that round table will be published in *Les Cahiers des Amériques Latines*. The Assembly of 1980 was complemented by another round table on "Economic Booms in Latin America," with the participation of a number of non-French European colleagues and several Latin Americans, including Celso Furtado and Paolo Singer. The next annual colloquium was held at the University of Toulouse and had as its theme "The Frontiers of Power in Latin America."

AFSSAL Informations, the bulletin of the Association, is published quarterly and contains the following sections: Association news, and information for Latin Americanists on (a) scientific meetings, (b) publications by AFSSAL members which may be of interest to members, and (c) research in progress. The Secretary General of AFSSAL would appreciate receiving any information relevant to the development of Latin American research around the world. Direct such information to Alain Rouquié, AFSSAL, 4 rue de Chevreuse, 75006 Paris, France.