

FEDERICO G. GIL AWARD

The **Federico G. Gil Award**, named in honor of the late Federico G. Gil, Kenan Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Director of ISA from 1959-1983, recognizes the Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis a Latin American topic by a graduating undergraduate student. Nominations from UNC-CH faculty are accepted for work accomplished in any discipline or major.

Students: If you believe that you are eligible for the Gil Award please talk to your faculty advisor about putting together a nomination.

Eligibility:

- Be an undergraduate student graduating in the current academic year who has conducted independent research or creative work (typically for an honors thesis) focused on a Latin American or Caribbean topic
- Completed the work during the current academic year

Competition: The competition is merit-based and open to all disciplines and themes. Candidates will be considered by faculty nomination only.

Submit the Nomination and Supporting Materials to:

Institute for the Study of the Americas,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3200 FedEx Global Education Center, CB 3205
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3205
Attention: Federico G. Gil Award

How to Apply:

- Step 1: A UNC-CH faculty member submits to ISA **a letter identifying the student, and providing their contact information (i.e. email address). The letter should explain the reason why the student's work is being recognized. It should also be submitted with a final or penultimate draft of the work.**
- Step 2: The candidate will receive notification.
- Step 3: The candidate will submit a short abstract (no more than 250 words) of his/her work and a one-page statement about future plans.
- Step 4: Notifications will be sent to applicants.
- Step 5: The award will be presented at the annual Latin American Studies Graduation and Award Ceremony held on the Saturday before May graduation.

Contact: Beatriz Riefkohl Muñoz (riefkohl@email.unc.edu)

About Federico G. Gil: Federico Gil was born in Havana, Cuba in 1915. He received two doctorates from the University of Havana before joining the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1943. His work includes *The Governments of Latin America* (1957), *Political System of Chile* (1966), and *Latin American-United States Relations* (1971). In 1960 he joined colleagues at Cambridge to develop the framework for the Alliance for Progress. Five years later – and decades ahead of time – he helped found the Instituto de Integración Latinoamericana in Buenos Aires. In 1963 he was named corresponding member of the Argentine Academia Nacional de Derecho y Ciencias Sociales, and in 1968 he became one of the first two North Americans ever admitted as an honorary member of the Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales of the University of Chile. A singular honor came in 1970, when he was named commander of the Order of Merit Bernardo O'Higgins, the highest award given by the Government of Chile. In 1989 the opposition Concertación in Chile asked that he be named an official monitor of the plebiscite that produced Chile's return to democracy. He was named Kenan Professor (1966) and was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws (1992) by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In 1959 Federico Gil was tapped to lead ILAS (now the Institute for the Study of the Americas). He stepped down as director in 1983. He was a founding member of the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association, and he served as LASA president in 1971. Federico Gil was in the forefront of the founding generation of North American political scientists specializing in Latin America. His receptivity to new ideas and approaches, and especially his promotion of empirically based research, eased the incorporation of the best of behavioral methodology into Latin American studies.