Commercial aviation has historically played an important social, political and even symbolic role in the economic development, in the territorial integration and in the assertion of sovereignty in many Latin American countries.

In the context of this vast region, with its wide, challenging and very unequally populated territories - lacking connections in more traditional transport systems - the knowledge of the history of commercial aviation can illuminate academic and political debates that still have relevance in the region. We could point out as an example issues such as the role of the State in promoting development and economic and territorial sovereignty in national spaces; or the interactions and tensions between technology, territory, politics and society in the processes of modernization of the connectivity on the periphery of world capitalism. Despite the importance of the matter, the construction of the history of commercial aviation in Latin America is still largely a pending task.

In order to fill this gap, we are inviting scholarly contributions dealing with the basic subjects that are included in the history of commercial aviation in the region for a proposed Special Issue of the Journal of Transport History scheduled for April 2019. In existence for over 50 years, The Journal of Transport History publishes scholarly research and commentary on the history of transport, travel, tourism and mobility, and their relationships with planning and policy.

The works that would ideally fit this monographic issue should be centred on case studies on national flagship airlines, either private or state-owned enterprises; comparative analyses between countries or airlines, in approaches to international relationships of the airlines' strategies, or with a greater interest in more specific regional areas. We are also open to research addressing the issue from a cross-connection perspective or integrating different questions to those already mentioned. Other approaches are also welcomed. In addition, it is important to include perspectives on interoperability or about intermodal networks of transport systems, as well as the relationship between commercial aviation and airport infrastructures that are part of the technological deployment that commercial aviation introduced in Latin America from the 1920s.
The Special Issue will be guest edited by Javier Vidal Olivares and Melina Piglia. Together with JTH editor Massimo Moraglio, they will select papers based on their thematic fit, originality and scholarly rigor.

Contributions may be archive-based research essays of 8,000 words (including endnotes and abstract). Abstracts are welcome until February 20th, 2018. Papers will be subject to a double blind review process. Final submissions for the JTH Special Commercial Aviation History in Latin America Issue should be lodged by 30 March 2018.

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