



Urban Violence: Building Safe and Inclusive Cities in Latin America

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Woodrow Wilson Center
6th Floor Auditorium

Opening Remarks

Cynthia J. Arnson is Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her work focuses on democratic governance, conflict resolution, citizen security, international relations, and U.S. policy in the Western hemisphere. Arnson is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, the Spanish-language edition of the distinguished journal *Foreign Affairs*. She is a member of the advisory boards of the Social Science Research Council's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum and of Human Rights Watch/Americas. She is co-editor most recently of *Reaching Across the Pacific: Latin America and Asia in the New Century*; co-editor of *Latin American Populism in the 21st Century* (Johns Hopkins, 2013); and author of *Crossroads: Congress, the President, and Central America, 1976-1993* (Penn State, 2d ed., 1993), among other works. Arnson was a foreign policy aide in the House of Representatives during the Carter and Reagan administrations. She graduated magna cum laude from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and has an M.A. and Ph.D. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Introduction

Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. From 2007-2009 he was Professor of Political Science and Director of Latin American Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU), in Vancouver, Canada. Prior to arriving at SFU he served for fifteen years as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. His research focuses on the comparative politics of Latin America, and on the politics of development. Current research projects analyze the state of democracy and emerging development strategies in South America, and the ways in which elites exercise power in Central America. He has served as a consultant to numerous development and educational agencies, including the Ford Foundation, the World Bank, and the Swedish International Development Agency. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has also taught at New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton, and the New School.

Panelists

Juan Pablo Pérez Sáinz is a sociologist and researcher at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Costa Rica. He has worked on various topics related to labor markets, poverty, and economic development. Prof. Pérez Sáinz has published extensively on a number of different issues including labor markets, employment, globalization, poverty, and social structure. He is coauthor of the book *La persistencia de la miseria en Centroamérica: Una mirada desde la exclusión social* (2007), and autor of *Mercados y bárbaros: La persistencia de las desigualdades de excedente en América Latina* (2014), where he discusses the dynamics of inequality in the Latin American economy. Prof. Pérez Sáinz holds an M.A. in Sociology from L'Université de Paris-Sorbonne, and an M.A. in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.

Roberto Briceño-León is the coordinator of the Venezuelan Violence Observatory (OVV) and a former Wilson Center Fellow. He was founder and coordinator of the Group on Violence and Society of the Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO) and since 1983 has served as the director of the Social Sciences Laboratory (LACSO). Prior to joining the OVV, he served as a member of the executive committee of the International Association of Sociology (1994-2002), as World Secretary of the International Forum for Social Sciences and Health (1998-2003), and as Director of the Latin American Small Grants Program for the World Health Organization (WHO). Prof. Briceño-León has been a guest lecturer at the Sorbonne in Paris and a researcher for France's National Council of Scientific Research (CNRS). He has also taught at Saint Anthony's College, Oxford University, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and the School of Public Health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His publications consist of more than 24 books and over 200 chapters and articles in scientific journals, including *Venezuela: Clases Sociales e Individuos* (1993); *Violencia, Justicia y Sociedad en América Latina* (2002); *Sociología de la Violencia en América Latina* (2008); and *Inseguridad y Violencia en Venezuela* (2009). He holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Hugo Frühling is Director of the Institute of Public Affairs and Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Chile. Prior to his current position at the University, he directed the Center for Studies on Public Safety in Santiago, Chile. Between 1992 and 1994, he was Executive Secretary of the Public Security Coordinating Council of the Ministry of the Interior and advisor to the Minister of the Interior. As a consultant, he has worked with the Ford Foundation, United Nations, World Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank on legal reform, human rights policies, policies dealing with crime, and police reform. He has also been published extensively on topics related to human rights, police, and judicial reform in Latin America. Some of his recent work includes *Police and Society in Transitional Countries: the Case of Latin America* (2003), *Calles más seguras: estudios de policía comunitaria en América Latina* (2004), *Police Legitimacy in Chile* (2007), and *Violencia y Policía en América Latina* (2009). He holds a J.D. from the University of Chile and an L.L.M. and S.J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Jennifer Salahub is a Senior Program Officer at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She is an expert in security and development, with a focus on urban violence, poverty, and inequalities. Salahub manages the IDRC's Safe and Inclusive Cities initiative, a global research program jointly funded by IDRC and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. Prior to joining IDRC, Salahub was senior researcher and team

leader of the North-South Institute's (NSI) Fragile and Conflict-Affected States program. While at NSI, she conducted research on peacebuilding, fragile states, and legislative effectiveness. Specifically, Salahub contributed to the fields of security sector reform, gender equality in fragile states, and gender-sensitive policing. She conducted field research in Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, South Africa, and South Sudan. Salahub holds an MA in political science (international relations) from McGill University.

Commentators

Adriana Beltrán is a Senior Associate for Citizen Security at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), focusing on violence prevention, and police and judicial reform in Central America. In addition to her work on citizen security, Beltrán has worked extensively on human rights and organized crime, particularly in Guatemala. She is the co-author of the groundbreaking study *Hidden Powers*, which documents the rise and impact of clandestine criminal organizations in Guatemala following the 1996 Peace Accords. Beltrán was a long-time advocate for the establishment of an UN-sponsored commission to investigate and prosecute organized criminal networks -- an effort that culminated in the creation of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) in January 2008. She continues to be actively engaged in ensuring local and international support for the CICIG's fight against organized crime and institutional corruption. *Protect and Serve? The Status of Police Reform*, authored by Beltrán, compares efforts to establish professional, rights-respecting police forces in Central America. She continues to be involved in the police reform process in El Salvador and Guatemala. In an effort to address the ongoing surge of crime and violence in Central America, Beltrán is managing a project to facilitate greater coordination of citizen security programs that are funded by the international community. This work, conducted in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is the first of its kind in Central America. She also monitors U.S. security assistance to Central America through the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI). Before joining WOLA in 1998, she interned at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Beltrán was born and raised in Colombia.

Adam Blackwell is Secretary for Multidimensional Security at the Organization of American States (OAS). Since joining the OAS in 2006, Secretary Blackwell has served as Assistant Secretary of Finance and Administration and later Secretary for External Relations. Prior to his time at the OAS, Secretary Blackwell served in a number of diplomatic positions. In 1985, he joined Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and later served as Consul-General in Mexico and at the Canadian Mission to the United Nations in New York. In 2000 he completed the Executive Development Program at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. He pursued his diplomatic career in the region, serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Dominican Republic from 2002-2005, and as Director-General of Strategy and Services in the Bilateral Relations Branch of Foreign Affairs and International Trade from 2005-2006. He has received numerous awards and honors, of which the most notable are: the Order of Merit of Duarte, Sánchez and Mella Grand Cross with Silver Breast Star—main award of the Dominican Republic, and the Ministers' Award for Management (1995). Furthermore, he contributed to and coordinated the 2013 OAS Drug Report.

Moderator

Eric L. Olson is the Associate Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. His research and writing has focused primarily on security issues and the impacts of crime, organized crime, and violence on democracies. He has also written about reform of police and judicial institutions as a vehicle for addressing the problem of rapidly expanding crime in the Americas. He has traveled extensively in Mexico, Central America, and the Andes. Prior to joining the Wilson Center he was a Senior Specialist in the Department for Promotion of Good Governance at the Organization of American States from 2006-2007. He served as Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International USA from 2002-2006. Prior to Amnesty, he was the Senior Associate for Mexico, and Economic Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America for eight years. He worked at Augsburg College's Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico from 1989-1993 where he was the program director. From 1986-1988, he worked in Honduras as a development specialist for several local non-governmental organizations. He has an MA in International Affairs from the School of International Service at American University, Washington, D.C.