RELGION AND DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA:
Religious Engagement with Rights and Justice in Latin America: Environment and Gender/Sexuality
A workshop organized by American University’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS)
with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation
February 27-28, 2014

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Robert Albro is Research Associate Professor at American University’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. He received his PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Chicago, and has conducted ethnographic research and published widely on popular and indigenous politics along Bolivia’s urban periphery, and with particular attention to the changing terms of political participation, indigenous identity, and citizenship as part of grassroots-driven change in this country. Much of this work is summarized in his book, *Roosters at Midnight: Indigenous Signs and Stigma in Local Bolivian Politics* (School of Advanced Research Press, 2010). Dr. Albro’s research and writing have been supported by the National Science Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and the American Council for Learned Societies, among others. He has been a Fulbright scholar, and held fellowships at the Carnegie Council, the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution.

Email: robert.d.albro@gmail.com

Evan Berry is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at American University and Co-Director of the Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs master’s program. He received his PhD in religious studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research focuses on ideas of nature in modern Western culture, particularly regarding the religious roots of modern environmental discourse. Trained in both social scientific and theoretical methodologies, Dr. Berry’s current scholarship includes a book project on the religious sources of the American environmental movement and an analysis of the role of religious ideas and organizations in the global politics of sustainability. He has also published extensively on ethnographic relationships between intentional communities in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Berry has served as Postdoctoral Research Associate at Lewis and Clark College and was a recipient of the Mendell Endowed Graduate Fellowship from the Capps Center for the Study of Religion and Public Life in 2007. Email: berry@american.edu

Eve Bratman is Assistant Professor at American University’s School of International Service, where she also completed her doctoral work in international relations in 2009. She also holds a Certificate in Human Rights from American University’s Washington College of Law. Dr. Bratman teaches courses on the politics of global development and environmental politics as part of the SIS International Development Program. Her research involves sustainable development politics in the Brazilian Amazon. Her major research projects focus on the links between environmental policy, agriculture, and human rights in Brazil and beyond. Her book-in-progress is tentatively entitled *Development’s Crossroads: Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Human Rights in the Brazilian Amazon* and is based on nearly a decade of research and work in Brazil. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Brazil in 2006-07.

Email: bratman@american.edu
Miguel Carter is Scholar in Residence at American University’s School of International Service. He received his PhD in political science from Columbia University. Dr. Miguel Carter is an expert in international development, democratic governance and elections, poverty and inequality reduction, rural and community development, religion and civil society, human rights, and social movements in Latin America. He is the author of several books, chapters, and articles, including El papel de la Iglesia en la caída de Stroessner (RP Ediciones, 1991) and Challenging Social Inequality: The Landless Rural Workers Movement and Agrarian Reform in Brazil (Duke University Press, 2014). Dr. Carter served as a Research Fellow in Politics at the University of Oxford’s Centre for Brazilian Studies, and has consulted for the World Bank, Creative Associates, Oxford Analytica, IFES, and the Comité de Iglesias para Ayudas de Emergencia, Paraguay’s leading human rights organization. Email: carter@american.edu

José Casanova is Professor in the Department of Sociology at Georgetown University, where he also directs the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs’ Program on Globalization, Religions, and the Secular. He received his PhD in sociology from the New School. Dr. Casanova’s most recent research has focused primarily on two areas: globalization and religion, and the dynamics of transnational religion, migration, and increasing ethno-religious and cultural diversity. His research on religion and globalization has adopted an ambitious comparative perspective that includes Catholicism, Pentecostalism, and Islam. His best-known work, Public Religions in the Modern World (University of Chicago Press, 1994), has garnered global acclaim and been translated into five languages, including Arabic and Indonesian. In recognition of his achievements, he was recently awarded the Theology Prize from the Salzburger Hochschulwochen. Email: jvc26@georgetown.edu

Rebecca Cook is Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Law and Co-Director of the International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Programme at the University of Toronto. Dr. Cook holds a JSD from Columbia University’s School of Law. She is the ethical and legal issues co-editor of the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics and contributes to the editorial advisory boards of Human Rights Quarterly and Reproductive Health Matters. Her numerous publications include Reproductive Health and Human Rights: Integrating Medicine, Ethics and Law (Oxford University Press, 2003) with co-authors Bernard Dickens and Mahmoud Fathalla. Dr. Cook is the recipient of the Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Women’s Health from the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians, the Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Email: rebecca.cook@utoronto.ca

Rafael de la Dehesa is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at the City University of New York, College of Staten Island. Dr. de la Dehesa received his PhD in government from Harvard University and holds graduate degrees in international relations and Portuguese and Brazilian studies. His research interests include gender and sexuality, political sociology, social movements, social theory, and Latin American Studies. Dr. de la Dehesa has presented his work at a number of conferences both in the United States and in Latin America. In addition to several articles, he is the author of Queering the Public Sphere in Mexico and Brazil: Sexual Rights Movements in Emerging Democracies (Duke University
Press, 2010), a groundbreaking comparative analysis of the historical development and contemporary dynamics of LGBT activism in Latin America’s two largest democracies. Email: rafael.deladehesa@csi.cuny.edu

**Joseph Eldridge** is University Chaplain at American University and Senior Professional Lecturer in AU’s School of International Service. He holds an MA in international relations from American University, an MDiv from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, and a DMin from Wesley Theological Seminary. Dr. Eldridge’s research interests include U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America, U.S. human rights policy, the role of religion in international relations, and interfaith life and practice. He has spent more than twenty-five years working in the public policy arena as an advocate and analyst on international human rights and humanitarian issues. Dr. Eldridge established the Washington Office of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in 1991, worked in Honduras as a consultant on human rights and development issues during the mid-1980s, and co-founded the Washington Office on Latin America and served as its first director in the early 1970s. Email: eldridg@american.edu

**Paul Freston** is Professor and CIGI Chair in Religion and Politics in Global Context at Wilfrid Laurier University. He obtained his PhD from the State University of Campinas in Brazil. Dr. Freston is Senior Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Studies of Religion in Latin America Program at the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. He has authored nine books and sixty-five articles, is co-editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America*, and is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, *Religião e Sociedade*, *Review of Faith and International Affairs*, *Fieldwork in Religion*, and *Plura*. His work on religion and politics has led to three major books: *Evangelicals and Politics in Asia, Africa, and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2001); *Protestant Political Parties: a Global Survey* (Ashgate, 2004); and *Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in Latin America* (Oxford University Press, 2008). Email: pfreston@wlu.ca

**Marcial Godoy-Anativia** is a sociocultural anthropologist and Associate Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics at New York University, where he also serves as co-editor of *e-misférica*, the Institute's trilingual online journal. Mr. Godoy-Anativia’s research interests include religion and politics in Latin America, and the intersectionality between religion, sexuality, gender, and race. He currently oversees the Hemispheric Institute’s Religion and Politics in the Americas program, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. His most recent scholarship includes *Rhetorics of Insecurity: Belonging and Violence in the Neoliberal Era* (New York University Press, forthcoming) with co-editor Zeynep Gambetti. Mr. Godoy-Anativia is on the Board of Directors of the North American Congress on Latin America and the Editorial Committee of *NACLA: Report on the Americas*. Email: marcial.godoy@nyu.edu

**Eric Hershberg** is Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Hershberg has taught at New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton, and the New School. He also served for fifteen years as
a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. His most recent publications include two co-edited volumes, one with Maxwell A. Cameron, entitled *Latin American Left Turns: Politics, Policies, and Trajectories of Change* (Lynne Rienner, 2010) and the second, *New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America: Voice and Consequence* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), with Maxwell A. Cameron and Kenneth E. Sharpe. Dr. Hershberg also co-directed the CLALS project on religious responses to violence in Latin America, a two-year initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Email: hershber@american.edu

Guillermo Kerber is the World Council of Churches’ Program Executive on Care for Creation and Climate Justice, based in Geneva, Switzerland. He also serves as WCC’s Program Coordinator for Eco-Justice and Diakonia, a program which comprises economic justice, climate change, and water concerns. Dr. Kerber completed doctoral work in sciences of religion at the Methodist University of São Paulo. He joined the World Council of Churches in 2001 as the Program Executive for Impunity, Justice, and Reconciliation in Latin America & the Caribbean as a member of the International Affairs, Peace, and Human Security Team. Dr. Kerber is a leading authority on the role of the transnational church in addressing climate change and other environmental justice issues, and has worked extensively on how climate change impacts rural development, youth, and indigenous peoples, particularly in Latin America. He is co-founder of the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment, and Human Rights.

Email: guillermo.kerber_mas@wcc-coe.org

Carlos Monge is the Latin America Regional Coordinator at the Revenue Watch Institute. He holds a degree in anthropology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a PhD in history from the University of Miami. Dr. Monge has also worked as Head of Citizen Monitoring and Promotion of Participation and Head of Communications for Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana (GPC), an institution dedicated to promoting decentralization as a participative process. He also currently serves a Senior Researcher for Peru’s Center for the Study and Promotion of Development. He works on extractive sector transparency issues with numerous civil society organizations and has been a member of the international board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. He has also authored several works related to rural development, social movements, decentralization, citizen participation, and conflicts generated by extractive industries.

Email: cmonge@revenuewatch.org

Mario Pecheny is Professor of Political Science and Sociology of Health at the University of Buenos Aires. He is also Coordinator of the Study Group on Sexuality at the Instituto Gino Germani and Associate Researcher in Sociology and Demography at the National Council of Science and Technology (CONICET) in Argentina. Dr. Pecheny completed doctoral studies in political science from the University of Paris and has conducted extensive research on issues related to health (HIV and AIDS, reproductive health, chronic illnesses, drug use), sexuality, human rights, and politics in Latin America and other regions. He has published and edited several books, including *Todo sexo es político* (Del Zorzal, 2008) and *The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America: A Reader in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights* (co-edited with Javier Corrales, University of Pittsburg Press, 2010).

Email: mpecheny@mail.retina.ar
**Ricardo Rozzi** is Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of North Texas. He also currently serves as Director of the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program. Dr. Rozzi received his PhD in ecology from the University of Connecticut. His research combines the disciplines of ecology and philosophy through the study of the interrelations between the ways of knowing and inhabiting the natural world. In addition to his theoretical work, Dr. Rozzi has collaborated with the Chilean Ministry of Education, the Latin American Ecology Schoolyard Program, and has participated in the creation of the “Senda Darwin” Biological Station (Chiloé Island, Chile), the Latin American Network of Ethnobotanical Parks, the Omora Ethnobotanical Park (Puerto Williams, Chile), and the UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve, all with the aim of incorporating environmental ethics into the practices of conservation and education in Latin America.

Email: ricardo.rozzi@unt.edu

**Jeffrey Rubin** is Associate Professor of History at Boston University and Research Associate at BU’s Institute for Culture, Religion, and Work Affairs. He earned his PhD from Harvard University. Dr. Rubin specializes in Latin American history, with a focus on the historical and cultural origins of grassroots activism and the ways in which social movements contribute to the deepening of democracy in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. He has been a Visiting Fellow at numerous institutions, including the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego, the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, and the Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture at Rutgers University. Dr Ruben recently directed a research collaboration and conference series on Religion, Social Movements, and Zones of Crisis in Latin America. His work has received funding from the Open Society Foundations, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, among others.

Email: jwr@bu.edu

**Macarena Sáez** is a Fellow in the International Legal Studies Program at American University’s Washington College of Law. Professor Sáez is also the Faculty Director of WCL's Impact Litigation Project. She earned her JD from the University of Chile’s School of Law. Her main areas of research are gender discrimination in Latin America and comparative family law, with a recent focus on the impact of the same-sex marriage debate in family formation around the world. Professor Sáez is a member of the Executive Committee of the Ford Foundation-funded Network of Latin American Scholars on Gender, Sexuality, and Legal Education (ALAS), an organization that provides training to law professors in Latin America on mainstreaming gender and sexuality perspectives in legal education. She is also a member of Libertades Públicas, an organization with which she successfully litigated the first case on sexual orientation before the Inter-American System of Human Rights.

Email: msaez@wcl.american.edu

**Tod Swanson** is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He also currently serves as Senior Sustainability Scientist at ASU’s Global Institute of Sustainability. Dr. Swanson earned his PhD from the University of Chicago. He served as Director of ASU’s Center for Latin American Studies from 1997-2007. In 1999 Dr. Swanson founded the Andes and Amazon Field School at Santu Urku, an Amazonian Kichwa community in Napo Province, Ecuador. His work on Amazonian Kichwa and Shuar religion seeks to understand how heightened empathy with plant and animal species is believed to mediate emotional relations to
family and community. His approach uses linguistic analysis of native discourse to uncover implicit assumptions underlying Amazonian thinking. Dr. Swanson also serves the Santu Urku community in an elected capacity as councilman for environmental affairs.

Email: tod.swanson@asu.edu

**Esther Vicente** is Associate Professor of Law at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. She received her PhD in law from the University of London. Dr. Vicente co-authored *Abortion in Puerto Rico* (University of Puerto Rico, 1999) and has worked on issues related to human rights, especially in themes related to gender-based violence and reproductive rights, and has published widely on feminist perspectives in legal theory, reproductive rights, and violence against women. With more than thirty years of experience in the legal profession, she played a leading role both as a legal scholar and as an activist in garnering the approval of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Act of Puerto Rico and the Act against Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Dr. Vicente is a member of the Governing Council of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and is President of the Western Hemisphere Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Email: evicente@juris.inter.edu

**Toby Alice Volkman** is Director of Policy Initiatives and Secretary at the Henry Luce Foundation where she is primarily responsible for the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs. This initiative was launched in 2005 to deepen American understanding of the role of religion in the international arena, and to connect scholarly, media, and policy communities working on these issues. Dr. Volkman is a cultural anthropologist with a PhD from Cornell University. Prior to joining the Luce Foundation, Dr. Volkman worked with the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program, where she edited *Origins, Journeys, and Returns: Social Justice in International Higher Education* (SSRC, 2009). As a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation in the 1990s, she developed “Crossing Borders,” an initiative to revitalize the field of area studies. She has also served as director of the South and Southeast Asia Programs at the Social Science Research Council, and as deputy provost at the New School.

Email: tvolkman@luce.org

**Alexander Wilde** is Senior Research Fellow at American University’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. He received his PhD in political science from Columbia University. He is co-editor of *The Progressive Church in Latin America* (with Scott Mainwaring, Notre Dame University Press, 1989) and author of *Conversaciones de caballeros* (Tercer Mundo, 1982), on the breakdown of Colombian democracy in the 1940s. Dr. Wilde has served as Vice President for Communications at the Ford Foundation and headed Ford’s regional office for the Andes and Southern Cone. He has also served as Senior Fellow at the Helen Kellogg Institute and the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Latin America Program, and formerly directed the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). Most recently, Dr. Wilde directed the CLALS project on religious responses to violence in Latin America, a two-year initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. He is the editor of the project’s forthcoming scholarly volume.

Email: wilde@american.edu