

CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC





CENTER FOR  
**LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES**

The Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University, established in January 2010, is a campus-wide initiative advancing and disseminating state-of-the-art research. Our Faculty Affiliates and partners are at the forefront of efforts to understand economic development, democratic governance, cultural diversity, migration, peace and diplomacy, health, education, and environmental well-being. CLALS generates high quality, timely analysis on these and other issues in partnership with researchers and practitioners from AU and beyond.





# DISTINGUISHED FACULTY, FELLOWS & STUDENTS

AU faculty and participants in a CLALS project on religion and climate change meet in Delhi, India. Photo by CLALS.



CLALS draws upon nearly 80 Faculty Affiliates and 15 doctoral candidates, spanning AU's eight Schools and Colleges. Undergraduate and graduate students contribute to Center-sponsored efforts and receive support for their research and creative activities, enriching student intellectual life across campus.

Leading experts from academia, journalism, and the worlds of policy and advocacy come to CLALS as Research Fellows to advance scholarship and contribute to public debate. Fellows carry out research independently and participate in Center-sponsored initiatives, bringing their expertise to bear on a wide range of issues in Latin American and Latino studies. In addition, doctoral candidates planning to undertake research related to Latin American or Latino studies are welcome to apply to affiliate with the Center as in-residence Research Fellows.

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

- College of Arts and Sciences
- Kogod School of Business
- School of Communication
- School of Education
- School of International Service
- School of Professional and Extended Studies
- School of Public Affairs
- Washington College of Law



# INTELLECTUAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATORS

CLALS Research Fellows present a report on the transnational capacity of the MS-13 at the Inter-American Dialogue. Photo by the Dialogue.



In designing and implementing projects, CLALS establishes partnerships with academic institutions, think tanks, non-governmental and community organizations, and governmental agencies throughout the U.S. and Latin America. Center projects are supported through funding from external donors and agencies as well as by American University resources.

## INSTITUTIONS WE WORK WITH

- Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)
- La Clínica del Pueblo
- El Colegio de México
- Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES)
- Corporación de Investigación y Estudios para Latinoamérica (CIEPLAN)
- DC Office of Planning
- Escola Nacional de Administração Pública (ENAP)
- Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales-Costa Rica (FLACSO-Costa Rica)
- Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales (ICEFI)
- Instituto Superior de Relaciones Internacionales Raúl Roa García
- InSight Crime
- Inter-American Dialogue
- La Secretaría de Cultura del Gobierno Mexicano
- Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya
- Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC)
- University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
- Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
- The Wilson Center



# CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

Creating and disseminating knowledge is at the core of the Center's scholarly and institutional agenda. As a campus-wide initiative, the Center is uniquely situated to act as a catalyst for multidisciplinary research projects by undertaking data gathering, advancing theory-driven analyses, and circulating research results across academic and practitioner outlets. Research pursued by CLALS spans various subject matter areas, including economic development, democratic governance, migration, international relations, health, education, environmental well-being, and more.



## SELECT RESEARCH UNDERTAKINGS

### REGIONAL ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ASSESSMENT

With support from the U.S. Department of State, this year-long project aims to analyze the impacts of IUU fishing and efforts to combat it, including related legislation and local law enforcement's capacity to interdict IUU fishing across the Caribbean, South America, & Central America. In collaboration with InSight Crime, the initiative also examines the scope of crimes associated with IUU fishing.

### CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Since 2012, CLALS has undertaken a growing array of projects intended to better understand the factors driving migration to the United States from Central America, the well-being of migrants, and the impact of increased migration on receiving communities across the country. Funders for projects in this initiative have included the Christopher Reynolds and Ford Foundations, the National Science Foundation, the Central America and Mexico Migration Alliance, and the Border, Trade and Immigration Institute.

### ROBERT A. PASTOR NORTH AMERICA RESEARCH INITIATIVE

This joint program with the School of International Service promotes and disseminates cutting-edge research focused on processes of North American integration. Its central objective is to catalyze the emergence of a new generation of Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. scholars devoted to the study of the region. A core working group meets regularly in all three countries, generates collaborative papers, and participates in public panel events aimed at contributing to the public debate around North American issues, including the "backlash" to North American regionalism, the future of the North American agenda, and bilateral relationships within the region. Partners for this initiative include the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), the University of Ottawa, the Mexican Cultural Institute, the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and El Colegio de México.

### DC-METRO LATINO INITIATIVE

With community and University partners, the Center is engaged in an array of research projects that explore the distinctiveness, challenges, and potential contributions of the DC-metro region's Latino population. Funders for projects in this portfolio include the National Institute of Justice and the DC Office of Planning.

### LEGACIES & LESSONS OF HYBRID ANTI-IMPUNITY MISSIONS

This project seeks to address critical knowledge gaps and respective legacies of experiments of hybrid international-national missions against impunity and corruption in Central America: the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption in Honduras (MACCIH), and the International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES.) Funding is provided by the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and Seattle International Foundation.



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & DISSEMINATION

CLALS disseminates its research and shares knowledge about Latin America and Latino communities through multiple public engagement strategies.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Center presents project findings to scholarly, policy, and practitioner communities through varying types of print publications, including edited volumes, special edition journals, short-form reports, and policy briefs. Noteworthy examples in recent years include:

- *A New Chapter in U.S.-Cuban Relations: Social, Political, and Economic Implications* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)
- *Church, Cosmovision and the Environment: Religion and Social Conflict in Contemporary Latin America* (Routledge 2018)
- *Climate Politics and the Power of Religion* (Indiana University Press, 2022)
- *Religious Responses to Violence: Human Rights in Latin America Past and Present* (Notre Dame, 2015); also available in Spanish as *Las iglesias ante la violencia en América Latina* (FLACSO, 2015)
- *Understanding Climate Change through Religious Lifeworlds* (Indiana University Press, 2021)

- “Religion, Gender, Sexuality and the Law in Contemporary Latin America,” a special journal issue of *Religion and Gender* (International Association for the Study of Religion and Gender, 2018)

In addition, the CLALS **Working Paper Series** provides an outlet for the timely presentation of ongoing research and scholarship that bridges and catalyzes dialogue between scholarly, policy, and practitioner communities. Contributors include Faculty Affiliates, Research Fellows, and partners from beyond AU engaged in ongoing projects.

organized crime and security in Latin America. It serves as a resource for scholars, governments, businesses, journalists, and NGOs. [www.insightcrime.org](http://www.insightcrime.org)

## INNOVATIVE MEDIA

CLALS supports media that bring real-time analysis of events within Latin America and Latino communities to the public policymakers and the scholarly community.

- Working in collaboration with partners in the School of Communication, the Center brings to bear insights from researchers and practitioners who shed light on the human condition through **documentary films**.
- **InSight Crime** is a web-based clearinghouse of information and analysis on

## DYNAMIC COMMUNICATION

Research findings are disseminated through a variety of channels:

- The **CLALS website** is a platform for Center resources, current and past research project findings, upcoming event information, and more. [www.american.edu/clals](http://www.american.edu/clals)
- The **AULA Blog** aspires to stimulate fresh thinking and creative debate about Latin American public affairs and U.S.-Latin American relations by providing a space for concise, timely, and nuanced analyses of unfolding developments and long-term trends. [www.aulablog.net](http://www.aulablog.net)
- The Center’s **social media** platforms provide real-time updates of project findings and a space for interaction with Faculty Affiliates, Fellows, partners, the AU community, and others.

### FOLLOW US



[www.facebook.com/CenterForLatinAmericanAndLatinoStudies/](http://www.facebook.com/CenterForLatinAmericanAndLatinoStudies/)



[twitter.com/AU\\_CLALS](https://twitter.com/AU_CLALS)



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Former Cuban President Raúl Castro. | Wikimedia.

2. Parque Eólico Canela in Coquimbo, Chile, one of many wind-producing farms in Northern Chile. | Wikimedia.

3. Members of Venezuela’s opposition march against dictatorship in April 2017. | Photo by A. Davey. Flickr.

4. Awajun community members demonstrate for indigenous land rights in Peru. | Andina Archivo. Flickr.



# TIMELY EVENTS

The Center organizes public forums and presentations to disseminate research findings in Washington, DC and beyond. Select high-profile events are convened to engage policymakers and practitioners with academe.



3.

- The **Annual Latino Public Affairs Forum (ALPAF)** seeks to convene academics, community advocates, policy experts, journalists, students, and others to address key questions and topics of concern for Latinos.

- In partnership with the Mexican Ministry of Culture, the **Cátedra Cultura de México** program sponsors biannual visits of distinguished Mexican artists to visit the AU community, deliver public lectures, and engage faculty and experts in the DC-metro area.



1.



4.

1. ALPAF 2018 on Latino youth health. | Photo by Jeff Watts, American University.

2. “Artesanos” documentary screening and public panel. | Photo by CLALS.

3. Public panel discussion with Mexican filmmaker Fernando Eimbcke. | Photo by Jeff Watts, American University.

4. ALPAF 2017 on Latino entrepreneurship. | Photo by CLALS.

5. “Poder Latino” taping on the role of the Latino vote. | Photo by CLALS.



2.



5.





## TIMELY EVENTS

The Center also convenes workshops, seminars, and conferences to debate ongoing research, deliver updates to project stakeholders, and provide a space for disseminating scholarship to diverse audiences.

• **The Road Ahead: Exploring the Current Situation in Cuba:** In coordination with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), CLALS hosted an online webinar to discuss the Center's recently launched virtual symposium analyzing the July 11 protests in Cuba. The speakers examined some of the potential causes of the protests, as well as their significance for contemporary Cuban society and politics.

• **The Legacy of CICIG: Progress Made and Strategies to Continue the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Guatemala:** At this January 2020 public event co-hosted by the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales (ICEFI) in Guatemala City, the Center launched a report on the

legacy of International Commission of Against Impunity in Guatemala before an audience of 200 people. After presenting the report's findings, a distinguished panel discussed the role of CICIG and further steps to address corruption and impunity in Guatemala.

• **5Z1 SeDWA ei [fZ >SF 3 WLS** CLALS convened a **bgT[Ubs W[ 8WgSk \$' SS i [fZ** Fundación Foro del Sur and the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES) of Argentina to present and discuss the main findings of a CLALS and CRIES joint report which surveyed opinion leaders in 23 Latin American countries on their perception of China and its role in Latin America.

• **In Children's Best Interests: Advancing a Fundamental Standard for the Treatment of Immigrant Children:** Together with the American University Washington College of Law (WCL) and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), CLALS hosted a February 2020 symposium focused on defending and reinforcing the best interests principle as the central framework for decision-making involving immigrant children. The symposium served as a forum for highlighting the U.S. government's failures to provide immigrant children with treatment consistent with standards widely accepted under domestic law and international norms, in addition to generating concrete recommendations for implementing the best interests standard in the immigration context.



1. Public panel presentation of MACCIH report in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. | Photo by El Heraldo, Honduras.

2. Country Conditions & Asylum Decision-Making workshop. | Photo by CLALS.

3. Public panel discussion with Mexican author Margo Glantz. | Photo by CLALS.

4. Country Conditions & Asylum Decision-Making workshop. | Photo by CLALS.



# IN-DEPTH TRAINING & SKILLS ACQUISITION



CLALS fosters knowledge acquisition by students, professionals, and the public via:

- Funding AU faculty and graduate students to conduct research leading to large-scale projects.
- Supporting the delivery of programs relating to Latin American and Latino students under the auspices of Schools and Colleges across campus.
- Providing customized training programs for professionals in partnership with public, international, and non-governmental organizations.
- Informing Latin American public officials and civil society representatives about United States policies and institutions related to the hemisphere.
- Providing targeted orientation for immigrants and their advocates concerning asylum and related proceedings.



# IDEAL LOCATION

American University, with its location in Washington, DC, is an ideal venue for carrying out research on Latino populations and Latin American affairs, with close proximity to policymakers, think tanks, and international financial institutions, as well as the diplomatic community. The city is also home to a vibrant and growing Latino population and to national level Latino advocacy groups and research centers. The District's rich academic community provides ample opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration.

#### OFFICE LOCATION

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Room 521  
Washington, DC 20016-8137

#### U.S. MAILING ADDRESS

Center for Latin American  
& Latino Studies  
American University  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8137

Phone: 202-885-6178

Fax: 202-885-6430

[clals@american.edu](mailto:clals@american.edu)

[www.american.edu/clals](http://www.american.edu/clals)

#### AULA BLOG

[www.aulablog.net](http://www.aulablog.net)



[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

**CenterForLatinAmerican  
AndLatinoStudies/**



[twitter.com/AU\\_CLALS](https://twitter.com/AU_CLALS)



[www.youtube.com/channel/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/)

**UCrxuote4C1cGXQuhYeJ2huQ**





AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

**THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO STUDIES**

**OFFICE LOCATION**

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Room 521  
Washington, DC 20016-8137

**U.S. MAILING ADDRESS**

Center for Latin American  
& Latino Studies  
American University  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8137

Phone: 202-885-6178

Fax: 202-885-6430

[clals@american.edu](mailto:clals@american.edu)

[www.american.edu/clals](http://www.american.edu/clals)

**AULA BLOG**

[www.aulablog.net](http://www.aulablog.net)



[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

**CenterForLatinAmerican  
AndLatinoStudies/**



[twitter.com/AU\\_CLALS](https://twitter.com/AU_CLALS)



[www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCrxuote4C1cGXQuhYeJ2huQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrxuote4C1cGXQuhYeJ2huQ)



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Central American  
Migration  
Research Initiative



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



While unauthorized migration of Mexicans to the U.S. remains at historic lows, the flow of Central American migrants—many of them unaccompanied minors and families—has increased dramatically since 2012. In recent years, this demographic shift has persisted amidst more aggressive, less targeted immigration enforcement activities, the elimination of temporary protections for groups of noncitizens with long histories in the U.S., and divergent state and local community responses to migrant resettlement. Together with community and university partners, CLALS has undertaken a set of projects to better understand the factors driving migration from Central America, the well-being of migrants, and the impact of increased migration on communities across the U.S.

Apprehensions of unauthorized Central Americans crossing the U.S.-Mexico border increased over seven fold between 2000 and 2017, and in 2014, for the first time ever, they accounted for more than half (53%) of all apprehensions, compared to just 2% 15 years earlier. Understanding the magnitude and unique nature of migrant flows from Central America is thus essential to addressing the policy challenges associated with shifting trends in immigration to the U.S.

Center projects continue to explore the conditions motivating the migration of Central American minors



and their families, their safety and welfare during the migration journey, and their integration experiences in the U.S. Research on the circumstances driving migration is contributing to the Center's efforts to inform legal decision-making on the tens of thousands of cases that

have overwhelmed the U.S. immigration system. Recent projects under the umbrella of this initiative have also analyzed how communities across the country are addressing the legal, education, health, and social service needs of newcomers.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Robert A. Pastor  
North America  
Research  
Initiative



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## ROBERT A. PASTOR NORTH AMERICA RESEARCH INITIATIVE

This joint program with American University's School of International Service (SIS) promotes and disseminates cutting-edge social science research focused on processes of North American integration. It does so by catalyzing the emergence of a new generation of scholars, from Mexico, Canada, and the United States, devoted to the study of the region. By supporting the production, exchange, and dissemination of scholarship devoted to the region and its potential, the Robert A. Pastor North America Research Initiative (NARI) places AU at the forefront of a long term research agenda that will inform future policy on North America.

Pastor Scholars—named for the late SIS Professor Robert A. Pastor who championed the idea of North American integration—are early career scholars or doctoral candidates whose research encompasses a wide range of topics that shape regional dynamics, including migration, trade, finance and investment, energy, climate change, security, and political and social identities. Scholars meet regularly in all three countries, generate collaborative papers, and participate in public panel events aimed at contributing to the public debate around North American issues, including the



SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO STUDIES  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

“backlash” against North American regionalism, the future of the North American agenda, and bilateral relationships between countries in the region. This initiative resulted in an edited volume with New Mexico University Press and a Spanish-language volume.

Partners in this program have included the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), the University of Ottawa, the Mexican Cultural Institute, the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and El Colegio de México.

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/north-america-research-initiative.cfm>



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

DC-Metro  
Latino Research  
Initiative



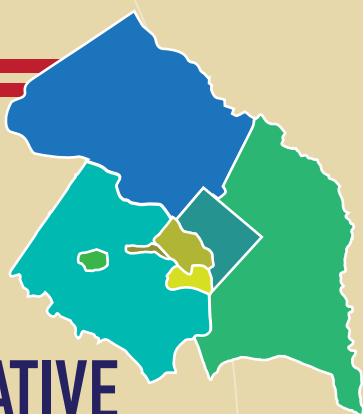
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



The Washington, DC-metro region has become an important immigration gateway and a laboratory of urban and suburban diversity. Nearly one million Latinos live in this metropolitan area, over half of whom are foreign-born. Latinos are the region's largest and most rapidly growing minority group, and the area's Latino population exhibits distinct characteristics relative to the rest of the country. Together with government, community, and university partners, CLALS is undertaking an array of research projects to better understand the distinctiveness, challenges, needs, and contributions of the DC-metro region's Latino population.



# DC-METRO *Latino* RESEARCH INITIATIVE



A majority of the DC-area Latino population comes from Central and South America, rather than countries such as Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, or the Dominican Republic, which predominate in other cities across the United States. DC boasts the second largest Salvadoran population in the country and is the only metropolitan region with Salvadorans as its largest Latino group. The

region also has the largest Bolivian and third largest Guatemalan populations in the U.S. Yet little is known about the circumstances of Latino lives in this region as compared with longer-established and frequently studied Latino populations in such states as New York, California, Texas, or Florida.

Center projects address an array of topics of concern to Latinos, including demographic

change and immigration, neighborhood cohesion, community health, and educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, among other themes. CLALS also works in partnership with social service providers and legal advocates to generate knowledge they need to better serve Central American immigrants, with a particular focus on youth.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Religion and  
Climate Change  
in Cross-Regional  
Perspective



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



Climate change is dramatically altering the planet and affecting human livelihoods in ways that elicit religious responses. Building upon earlier CLALS work focused on forms of religious engagement with environmental conflict in Latin America, this project deepens understandings of the relationship between religion and the effects of climate change across multiple regions of the world. In the process, it addresses three interrelated questions: the role of religion in ongoing public discourse on climate change, religious sources of environmental knowledge that inform community responses to climate change, and the ways that climate change also drives religious change.

A collaboration between Latin Americanists and Caribbeanist researchers along with scholars and practitioners focused on South Asia and the South Pacific, this project transcends the geographic barriers which too often constrain conventional area studies initiatives.

Dialogues across regions and religions have given special attention to three features of climate change, with a focus on water: the effects of glacial melt in the Andes and Himalayas, climate-related stress upon urban water systems in South America and South Asia, and the vulnerabilities of small island archipelagos in the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

Outcomes of this project include three international



## RELIGION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN CROSS-REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

workshops, two edited volumes with university presses, an additional Spanish-language edited volume, three short documentary films, two climate diplomacy public forums, presentations at multiple academic conferences, and print and media journalism, in formats and forums designed to inform policy decision makers and stakeholders in Latin America, the Caribbean,

South Asia, and Oceania.

With generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation's Initiative on Religion in International Affairs, this project is led by Evan Berry, former Faculty Affiliate and Assistant Professor in Arizona State University's School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, together with CLALS Director Eric Hershberg and Research Associate Professor Robert Albro.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

CLALS Research  
Fellows Program



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## CLALS RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

Leading experts from academia, journalism, and the worlds of policy and advocacy come to CLALS as Research Fellows to advance scholarship and contribute to public debate. Fellows carry out research independently and participate in Center-sponsored initiatives, bringing their expertise to bear on a wide range of issues in Latin American and Latino Studies. In addition, doctoral candidates planning to undertake research related to Latin American or Latino studies are welcome to apply to affiliate with the Center as in-residence Research Fellows. The Center cannot provide stipend support, but students accepted to the program receive access to work space at CLALS and to the library and other research infrastructure at American University.

The following fellows are among more than 50 fellows that have been affiliated with the Center since 2010:



**Sol Espinoza:**  
*Research Fellow, CLALS.*

Sol Espinoza's research interests include ethnicity and immigration, labor and employment, entrepreneurship, social inequality (gender-race-class), family and marriage, geographic disparities, and the intersection of the economy, society, and public policy.



**Ricardo Torres:**  
*Visiting Researcher*

Ricardo Torres is part of the Editorial Board of the Cuban Studies Journal and the International Journal of Cuban Studies. He develops his research around economic development, system reform, and industrial policies.



**Luis Gilberto Murillo:**  
*Colombian Ambassador*

to the United States. Luis Gilberto Murillo is a policy and advocacy expert with 28 years of experience in the areas of environment, sustainable development, and peace building.



**Luiza Duarte:**  
*Research Fellow,*

*Wilson Center, Brazil Institute.* Luiza Duarte is a journalist, producer, and political scientist. Her research interests include international relations, diplomacy, US-China-Brazil relations, media, cultural policies, environmental policies and national memory.

Research Fellow application forms are available at [www.american.edu/clals/research-fellows.cfm](http://www.american.edu/clals/research-fellows.cfm)



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Household  
Contexts  
and School  
Integraton  
of Resettled  
Migrant Youth



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## HOUSEHOLD CONTEXTS AND SCHOOL INTEGRATION OF RESETTLED MIGRANT YOUTH

Between 2013 and 2018, over 180,000 unaccompanied migrant children from Central America have been resettled in communities across the United States—more than 18,000 in the Washington, DC metropolitan area alone. Tens of thousands more have been resettled as part of family units. Under federal law, state and local jurisdictions are mandated to provide these newcomer youth with formal schooling, yet varying levels of institutional capacity, public funding, and familiarity with this populations have led to divergent school responses. CLALS is analyzing data gathered in collaboration with community partners to explore how local school responses and youth household circumstances are impacting their school integration experiences.

Central American youth who migrate to the U.S. alone or as part of a family unit are resettled in a diverse range of household contexts, many under the care of a long-separated or formerly unknown parent, other relative, or family friend. Incorporating these youth into households where mixed legal status and economic disadvantage are the norm frequently cause instability. While research on immigrant youth has linked household instability to poor educational achievement, almost no data exist describing household arrangements or school responses to the needs of Central American newcomers, and their combined effects on educational engagement.

The CLALS research team, led by Director



Eric Hershberg, Assistant Professors Noemí Enchautegui-de-Jesús (Psychology) and Ernesto Castañeda (Sociology), and a team of CLALS staff and graduate students, has carried out in-depth interviews with over 50 newcomer youth aged 13-17, their caretakers, and dozens of local stakeholders to gather data on youth's migration and integration experiences, as well as

school responses. The results of this study will enhance understanding of the needs of newly arrived minors, guide educational policy and funding decisions for targeted service programs, and inform local and national strategies for improving academic engagement and achievement among this at-risk youth population.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

InSight Crime



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



In much of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized crime destabilizes governments, undermines institutions, hinders economic growth, and threatens citizen security and public health. InSight Crime, hosted by CLALS, is the leading source for investigation, reporting, analysis, and training targeted to meet the needs of academics, researchers, policymakers and analysts, journalists, NGOs, and law enforcement and government officials tackling the problems posed by organized crime and drug trafficking throughout the region.

InSight Crime's work is featured on a dual-language website, comprising the largest and most comprehensive database on organized crime in the Americas. Daily articles summarize major news events and provide original, ground-level multimedia reports and in-depth investigations on organized crime that go beyond coverage in the traditional media. Bolstered by large followings on a range of social media platforms, InSight Crime's coverage reaches between 300,000 and 400,000 readers every month. InSight Crime's material is also routinely cited, quoted, and reprinted in major media outlets.

CLALS hosts InSight Crime's Washington, DC office, maximizing the organization's visibility and influence in the academic community



[www.insightcrime.org](http://www.insightcrime.org)

and in constituencies in the worlds of policy and advocacy. InSight Crime serves as a critical partner in a number of Center research initiatives, including previous work on elites and organized crime, current work mapping the operation of clandestine wildlife trafficking and logging industries, and ongoing efforts to analyze the criminal behavior of Central American street gangs. In order to support media freedom and combat impunity in the region, InSight Crime also builds the capacity of journalists and NGOs

to cover organized crime, corruption, and citizen security through targeted workshops and trainings.

InSight Crime has centers of operation in Colombia as well as at AU. CLALS Research Fellow Steven Dudley co-directs the initiative together with Jeremy McDermott, a journalist based in Medellín. InSight Crime's key funders include Open Society Foundations, the British Embassy in Colombia, USAID, the International Development Research Centre of Canada, and the Swedish government, among others.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

AULABLOG



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



Washington debates about Latin America are all too often plagued by U.S.-centric perspectives and adherence to conventional wisdoms that are disconnected from the complex realities of the region. The AULABLOG — managed by American University’s Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) — aspires to stimulate fresh thinking and creative debate about Latin American public affairs and U.S.-Latin American relations by providing a space for concise, timely, and cutting-edge analyses of unfolding developments and long-term trends, connecting the work of scholars at AU and elsewhere to concerns and constituencies outside academe.

The blog features contributions from CLALS Faculty Affiliates, Research Fellows, and invited outside experts, and is directed by CLALS Research Fellow Fulton Armstrong. Select blog posts have been featured in major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Christian Science Monitor*, as well as by Latin American and European outlets. Roughly 30 AU faculty members are among the more than 150 authors who have had their work published in the blog since its inception in 2012.

**SELECT BLOG POSTS**



**Cuba: Is The Economic Crisis Prompting Meaningful Reform?**

*By Ricardo Torres*

<https://aulablog.net/2022/08/09/cuba-is-the-economic-crisis-prompting-meaningful-reform/>



**Femicide in Guatemala: The Double Burden of COVID-19**

*By Megan DeTura, Skevi Kambitis, & Valery Valdez Pinto*

<https://aulablog.net/2022/06/09/latin-america-lessons-learned-from-abortion-rights-struggle/>



**South America: Future Global Green Hydrogen Hub?**

*By Robert Blecker*

<https://aulablog.net/2022/06/03/south-america-future-global-green-hydrogen-hub/>



**Latin America: China's Huawei Maintains its Foothold**

*By Luiza Duarte*

<https://aulablog.net/2021/11/19/latin-america-chinas-huawei-maintains-its-foothold/>



**Colombia: Forced Disappearances Remain High in Norte de Santander**

*By Jessica Spanswick & Javier Ochoa*

<https://aulablog.net/2020/06/09/colombia-forced-disappearances-remain-high-in-norte-de-santander/>



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

American  
University's  
Annual Latino  
Public Affairs  
Forum



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



Latinos represent the fastest growing population in the United States, and they are the leading edge of a demographic change transforming the U.S. into a “majority minority” country. Their influence upon the direction of national political, cultural, and economic trends, and many other issues, continues to grow. Recognizing the dynamic role of Latinos in U.S. public life, American University’s Annual Latino Public Affairs Forum (ALPAF) convenes scholars, advocates, policy professionals, journalists, students, and other stakeholders, to address key matters of public policy impacting Latino communities across the country.

Latinos have accounted for half of U.S. population growth since 2000, increasing 51% between 2010 and 2021. As of 2021, 19% of the country, or 62.1 million people, identified as Latino. By 2060, the number of Latinos is projected to grow 115% to 119 million, comprising 29% of the nation’s population.

Understanding the expanding importance of Latinos in American society is thus a key dimension in addressing the country’s present and future.

Held in the Nation’s Capital, ALPAF connects the findings of academic research with the efforts of stakeholders to illuminate the role of Latinos in American society and to enrich Latino lives.



Each year, the Forum focuses on a significant public policy issue that is both impacted by and important to Latino communities in the U.S. Typically, outcomes include the publication of significant original research through the Center’s Working Paper Series. The inaugural Forum in 2015 considered the prospects and possibilities for immigration policy during the last two years of the Obama administration. The following year ALPAF focused on potential impacts of the Latino vote on the 2016 presidential election cycle.

The 2017 Forum addressed the challenges facing Latino-owned enterprises, as increasingly important sources of growth for the American economy. The 2018 event considered access to health services for often undocumented, under served, and at-risk Latino youth.

The 2019 Forum concentrated on urban planning and the development of inclusive communities. In 2020 ALPAF centered on defending and reasserting the primacy of the best interests standard in the treatment of children in the U.S. immigration system. The 2021 Forum highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on Latino-owned enterprises, particularly focusing on challenges accessing aid.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Monitoring  
MACCIH and  
Anti-Impunity  
Efforts in  
Honduras



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



The Center for Latin American and Latino Studies has undertaken a project to monitor the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH). This project aims to analyze the Organization of American States (OAS)-sponsored Mission's work and to enhance public understanding of the MACCIH and its performance.



Under the direction of School of International Service Professor Charles Call and a team of senior researchers, this effort strives to understand MACCIH in the context of anti-corruption and impunity initiatives in Honduras and beyond. The project delivers regular reports, which provide updates and analysis of the work of MACCIH and are available online in

Spanish and English; and analytic papers beginning with one report analyzing MACCIH's first two years of operations, which was presented in a public event in Honduras in June 2018 and at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington, DC in July 2018. Sources for these products include news articles, tweets, press conferences, as well as private interviews with key informants inside and

outside Honduras. Project researchers also engage independent observers, journalists, and academics; government officials of Honduras, the United States, and other countries; Honduran and U.S.-based non-governmental organizations; and officials of the OAS and MACCIH. The project is funded by Open Society Foundations.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Wildlife  
Trafficking and  
Illegal Logging in  
Latin America



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND ILLEGAL LOGGING IN LATIN AMERICA

Illegal trade in wildlife and timber in Latin America have become multi-billion dollar industries run by sophisticated and dangerous criminal organizations. Trafficking in wildlife and timber often overlaps with other illicit activities such as the drug trade, and their impacts are increasingly dire. Ecosystems and biodiversity are destroyed, industries such as tourism are undermined, democratic governance at the local level is eroded, and impacted communities are exposed to increased ecological risks. But interdiction efforts and law enforcement agencies are frequently overmatched, and legal protections typically inadequate. At present we know very little about what species are most at risk, how these illicit industries work, or the networks connecting major source areas, transit points and destination markets.

With a grant awarded from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), CLALS has launched a two-year project intended to map in detail the extent and operation of the clandestine wildlife trafficking and logging industries throughout the region, including their increasing impact on vulnerable or endangered species and the role of criminal organizations in both industries.

This initiative is a collaboration between CLALS and InSight Crime, a non-profit journalism and investigative organization hosted by CLALS and with an office in Medellín,



Colombia, that specializes in organized crime in Latin America and the Caribbean. This project, led by CLALS Director Eric Hershberg and InSight Crime Co-Directors Steve Dudley and Jeremy McDermott, combines desktop research and in-country field and archival



investigation with data and network analysis of wildlife trafficking and illegal logging throughout the region.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Cátedra  
Cultura  
De México  
Program



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## CÁTEDRA CULTURA DE MÉXICO PROGRAM

As part of a long-standing agreement between the Mexican Ministry of Culture and American University, the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies administers the Cátedra Cultura de México program, a collaborative arts-based initiative to promote Mexican arts and culture. In coordination with the Mexican Cultural Institute of Washington, DC, distinguished Mexican artists visit the AU community to deliver public lectures and engage faculty and experts in the DC-metro area. American University remains among an exclusive list of eight institutions that partner with this Mexican government program, among them Brown, Harvard, Princeton, the City College of New York, the University of California system, the University of Leeds (UK), and the University of Chicago.

### SELECT DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



**Fernando Eimbcke.**  
*Filmmaker.*  
Maestro

Eimbcke's October 2017 visit included a public panel discussion at American University and a screening of his film *Club Sandwich* at the Inter-American Development Bank.



**Cristina Rivera Garza.**  
*Author.*

Award-winning novelist Cristina Rivera Garza led a public panel debate about writing and community in the context of contemporary violence during her September 2014 visit.



**Margo Glantz.**  
*Author.*  
Acclaimed

essayist and literary critic Margo Glantz spoke about her work on a panel with AU faculty members from the Department of World Languages & Cultures, and engaged with AU graduate students in a classroom visit during her October 2016 visit.



**Guita Schyfter.**  
*Filmmaker.*  
In October

2015, Maestra Schyfter joined AU faculty members from the College of Arts & Sciences for a screening of her documentary film *Los laberintos de la memoria*.



**Mario Bellatin.**  
*Author.* In April 2014,

well-known contemporary Mexican novelist Mario Bellatin was joined by fellow author Yuri Herrera for a panel discussion on experimental literature in Latin America.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

The Annual  
William M.  
LeoGrande  
Award and Prize



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## THE ANNUAL WILLIAM M. LEOGRANDE AWARD AND PRIZE

The William M. LeoGrande Award and Prize were established in 2012 to honor Professor LeoGrande's tenure as Dean of AU's School of Public Affairs. The endowed award recognizes Professor LeoGrande as one of the world's most accomplished scholars in U.S.-Latin American relations.

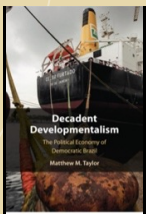
### THE WILLIAM M. LEOGRANDE AWARD

This Award is given annually for the best book or peer-reviewed article in Latin American or Latino Studies published by a member of the AU community during the preceding two years.



**2021 Recipient**  
Juliana Martínez,  
Associate Professor,

Department of World Languages and Cultures, *Haunting Without Ghosts: Spectral Realism in Colombian Literature, Film, and Art* (University of Texas Press, 2016)



**2020 Co-Recipient**  
Matthew Taylor,  
Associate Professor,

School of International Service, *Decadent Developmentalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

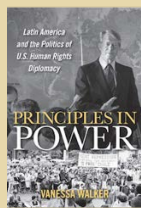


**2020 Co-Recipient**  
Luciana Gandini,  
Research

Fellow, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, Senior Researcher, Institute of Legal Studies, National Autonomous University of Mexico, *Caravanas* (UNAM, 2020)

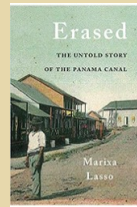
### THE WILLIAM M. LEOGRANDE PRIZE

This Prize is given annually for the best book on U.S.-Latin American relations published during the preceding two years.



**2021 Recipient**  
Vanessa Walker,  
Gordon Levin

Associate Professor of History, Department of Latinx and Latin American Studies, Amherst College, *Principles in Power: Latin America and the Politics of U.S. Human Rights Diplomacy* (Cornell University Press, 2020)



**2019 Recipient**  
Marixa Lasso,  
Associate Professor

of Latin American History, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, *Erased: The Untold Story of the Panama Canal* (Harvard University Press, 2019)



**2018 Recipient**  
Lars Schoultz,  
William Rand

Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, *In Their Own Best Interest: A History of the U.S. Effort to Improve Latin Americans* (Harvard University Press, 2018)



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Working Paper  
Series



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## WORKING PAPER SERIES

The CLALS Working Paper Series provides an opportunity for the timely presentation of ongoing research and scholarship that bridges and catalyzes dialogue between scholarly, policy, and practitioner communities. Papers in the series inform current policy debates, foreground the policy implications of Center research, summarize discussions at stakeholder convenings, and present preliminary research findings prior to publication in academic journals. Contributors to the CLALS Working Paper Series include CLALS Faculty Affiliates, Research Fellows, graduate students, and partners from beyond AU engaged in ongoing Center projects.

All CLALS working papers are available for download through the Social Science Research Network (SSRN), where they are incorporated into subject-classified eJournals and widely circulated throughout the scholarly community. SSRN's eJournals currently reach over 400,000 people in approximately 140 different countries. SSRN has been named the Number One Open Access Repository in the World by the Ranking Web of World Repositories. The CLALS Working Paper Series boasts 6,000 downloads and over 40,000 abstract views.



### SELECT PAPERS IN THE SERIES

**Pandemic Relief for Latino-Owned Businesses: Lessons from the Washington DC Metropolitan Area**  
*Robert Albro and Eric Hershberg, CLALS*

**Normative Accounts of International Environmental Migration in Latin America and the Religious Component of Intangible Loss**  
*Robert Albro, CLALS*

**The Impact of United States Engagement with Chile: 2000-2020**

*Juan Pablo Luna and Bruna Fonseca de Barros, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile*

**Communicating Influence: China's Messaging in Latin America and the Caribbean**

*Robert Albro and Eric Hershberg, CLALS  
Luiza Duarte, CLALS and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Religion and  
Environmentally  
-Induced  
Displacement



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## RELIGION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

Rapidly altering environments, often as a consequence of climate change, are an increasingly important driver of human mobility across international borders. Building upon earlier CLALS work on forms of religious engagement with environmental conflict and with climate change, both in Latin America and elsewhere, this project seeks to advance understanding of the religious response to environmental displacement throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, including religion's role at each phase of environmental migration, from departure or displacement, during transit, to arrival and adaptation. In the process, this project examines how different religious traditions inform individual and community responses to environmental dislocations, including Christian, but also Afro-Latino and Indigenous religious beliefs and practice.

CLALS pursues this agenda with attention to several dimensions of religious engagement with environmental displacement: 1. the potential contributions of faith-based actors and religious concepts to national and international deliberations and to emerging normative frameworks addressing new governance and security challenges posed by environmental migration; 2. the participation of transnational faith-based non-governmental organizations in humanitarian interventions on behalf of migrants; 3. the role in receiving communities



of religion and churches for addressing the needs of migrants, especially in contexts of resettlement and societal integration; and 4. the ways religious engagement is well-positioned to ameliorate intangible and collective dimensions of environmental dislocations beyond just the material needs of migrants. Outcomes of this project include

international workshops, documentary films, and multiple publications through our Working Papers series and other outlets.

With generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation's Initiative on Religion in International Affairs, this project is led by CLALS Director Eric Hershberg and Research Associate Professor Robert Albro.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Latin America  
in the Liberal  
International  
Order



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## LATIN AMERICA IN THE LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL ORDER

The global resurgence of right-wing populism has prompted a reexamination of the “Liberal International Order” (LIO), democratic norms, economic openness, and multilateralism promoted globally by the United States and its allies since the mid-20th century. However, Latin America is largely absent from these discussions, and analysts that study the region describe it as either a passive recipient of the LIO’s norms or an impediment to its solutions. Latin America in the Liberal International Order addresses this research gap by examining the region’s role in the development and transformation of the LIO.



This project engages several CLALS-affiliated faculty from across Schools and Colleges at American University and builds upon past CLALS projects that resulted in an edited volume on Brazil’s changing role in regional and global affairs and two special journal issues assessing the state of inter-American

relations at the beginning of the decade. Among those who contribute papers to the colloquium are scholars participating in the Robert A. Pastor North American Research Initiative. Outcomes of the LOI initiative include several published papers in the Cambridge Review of

International Affairs and a research workshop that addressed a variety of topics, from Latin America’s contributions to the LIO to its historical and present relationship with it. Latin America in the Liberal International Order is a collaboration with the Latin America in a Globalizing World Initiative at Johns Hopkins University.

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/liberal-international-order.cfm>



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Western  
Hemisphere  
Regional Illegal,  
Unreported, and  
Unregulated  
Fishing  
Assessment



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## CUBA INITIATIVE

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a potentially enduring threat to the security and well-being of the United States and its neighbors across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The region suffers several negative impacts from IUU fishing, including billions of dollars in economic losses and environmental costs due to over-fishing. In addition, IUU fishing is associated with a number of other illicit criminal activities. The fishing industry has long been known for ties to human trafficking, especially forced labor by migrant workers, exorbitant recruitment and repatriation fees, onerous and unsafe living and working conditions, and other forms of abuse. Countries across the region struggle to combat IUU fishing due to limited capacity to defend their exclusive economic zones and fisheries, including a lack of the intelligence and mapping capabilities needed to monitor IUU fishing operations in their waters.

This project examines the scope of IUU fishing-related legislation and local law enforcement capacity to interdict IUU fishing across the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. It also assesses the extent and scope of crimes associated with IUU fishing activities and collects local anecdotes on the adverse impacts of IUU fishing in the region. Outcomes of this project include a CLALS Working Paper, five thematic reports, and a September 9, 2022



public workshop at AU, numerous graphs and maps, and print and media journalism, in formats designed to inform policy decision makers. This project is a collaboration between

CLALS and InSight Crime. This initiative is led by AU School of International Service Associate Professor, Matthew Taylor, and InSight Crime Co-Director, Steven Dudley.

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/western-hemisphere-regional-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing-assessment.cfm>



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Civil Society  
and Democracy  
in Eastern El  
Salvador



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## CIVIL SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY IN EASTERN EL SALVADOR

El Salvador continues to confront multiple obstacles as it strives to consolidate democratic institutions and foster democratic citizen participation. Currently, the country faces serious challenges in public security, accountability, and corruption. Civil society groups representing a broad range of actors have found common ground in advocacy work aimed at improving the accountability of public officials. Despite these efforts, and their achievements thus far, there is still much to be done to encourage civil society's engagement on key issues affecting Salvadoran citizens.



To help improve conditions for civic education, citizen participation, and good democratic governance in El Salvador, CLALS provides technical and capacity-building collaboration for the Universidad del Oriente's (UNIVO) Centro de Investigación para la Democracia (CIDEMO) in San Miguel, El Salvador.

During 2019-2021, CLALS led various technical assistance trainings at UNIVO, including workshops on transparency, accountability, research methods, and the protection of human research participants. This initiative also produced a two-week research seminar held at

American University where CLALS staff, AU faculty, and practitioners based in Washington, DC worked with 10 visiting CIDEMO researchers.

This project is the product of a cooperative agreement between UNIVO and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Western  
Hemisphere  
Regional  
Transnational  
Crime  
Assessment  
and Analysis



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## WESTERN HEMISPHERE REGIONAL TRANSNATIONAL CRIME ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

In recent decades, large-scale criminal networks have emerged as threats to good governance, the rule of law, and human and environmental flourishing throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Criminal groups have embedded themselves deep into local political and economic life, and in some cases become powerful national actors by integrating themselves into established businesses and political parties, thus presenting new challenges for U.S. policymakers to confront as they work with regional counterparts. Together with community and university partners, this 2020-21 CLALS project, undertaken in partnership with InSight Crime, aimed to better understand the diverse criminal networks in Latin America and the Caribbean.



CLALS launched this one-year project to assess, analyze, and classify the diverse criminal networks in Latin America and the Caribbean. The inquiry aimed to explain how these organizations have evolved in the last two decades and how they may mutate in the future. It examined and mapped criminal networks with attention to such factors as: structure, core leadership, identity, economic strength, state

penetration, use of force, criminal contacts and alliances, territorial presence and reach, criminal governance, longevity, and connections between criminal groups and across markets, among others. It also assessed state efforts to interdict these networks and offer specific recommendations regarding how to move forward to reduce the power and capacity of criminal groups across the

region.

With funding from the U.S. Department of State, this project was one of a series undertaken as a collaboration between CLALS and InSight Crime. This initiative is led by AU School of International Service Associate Professor Matthew Taylor and CLALS Research Fellow Steven Dudley, who is also InSight Crime Co-Director.

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/western-hemisphere-regional-transnational-crime-assessment-and-analysis.cfm>



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Assessing the  
Cumulative  
Effects of U.S.  
Engagement in  
Chile and  
Uruguay



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## ASSESSING THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF U.S. ENGAGEMENT IN CHILE AND URUGUAY

Economies and societies across South America are impacted in myriad ways by their engagement with the government of the United States, its private sector, non-governmental institutions, and the general public. While the details and implications of this engagement are not always precisely understood, these impacts are notably present even in the most geographically distant countries in the region. To address this, CLALS has undertaken a systematic study of the impacts of U.S. engagement in two countries in the region: Chile and Uruguay.



This study examines the diversity, scale, and impacts of efforts undertaken by the U.S. government and civil society to boost prosperity in Chile and Uruguay. Undertaken in partnership with scholars at the Catholic Universities in Santiago and Montevideo, the project provides quantitative assessments of resource flows from the U.S. through such channels as investment, trade, tourism, and programs of direct and indirect assistance. It also gathers and interprets qualitative information on flows of knowledge and expertise – through such mechanisms as technological diffusion, training, and technical assistance – across



across education, defense, the arts, and health, among other sectors, including assistance to combat COVID-19.

This project has produced two country-specific reports, six topical case studies for each country, and infographics summarizing the benefits of U.S. contributions in each case, all in English and Spanish, as well as multiple blog posts.

CLALS has also convened two public events to present core findings in Montevideo and Santiago in partnership with leading universities in those cities.

This research was funded through a cooperative agreement between the Institute for War & Peace Reporting and the U.S. Department of State.

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/assessing-the-cumulative-effects-of-u-s-engagement-in-uruguay-and-chile.cfm>



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Transnational  
Humans and  
Transnationalism  
in the  
Humanities



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



The “transnational turn” has reshaped multiple disciplines in productive ways without generating a consensus on the meaning of transnationalism. It can refer to migration, postcoloniality, cosmopolitanism, diasporism, indigeneity, international relations, cultural production, and more. It can also refer to the transnational flows of people, power, and capital between the United States and Latin America, or between the Americas and Europe, Africa, and Asia. The movement of humans and their artefacts through the region and the wider world either physically, through travel, migration, and exile, or symbolically, through the circulation of texts, images, ideologies, music, film, dance styles, art, architecture, etc. has long been a feature of the experience of the Americas.

Directed by CLALS Faculty Affiliates Max Paul Friedman and Núria Vilanova, and with contributions from several other colleagues, this project analyzes contemporary usage of transnationalism across disciplinary boundaries and fosters exchange among scholars working with transnationalism in order to enrich our understanding of people who live transnationally in the Americas. It also identifies common and divergent approaches to the study of the concept that can contribute to the development of scholarly work informed by interdisciplinarity.

Two workshops brought together scholars from



across the Americas and Europe for whom transnationalism is central to their work. The February 2020 workshop at American University was sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History, Department of World Languages and

Cultures, and the Humanities Lab. The online forum hosted in July 2020 was sponsored by the Lateinamerika-Institut at the Freie-Universität Berlin and CLALS. Contributors are honing a collection of essays to be submitted for review at a university press during 2022.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

## Brazil Research Initiative



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## BRAZIL RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Center for Latin American & Latino Studies collaborates with schools and colleges across American University to catalyze and disseminate top-notch intellectual work on Brazilian politics, economics, foreign relations, society, and culture. CLALS regularly sponsors research, events, and publications on topics such as Brazil's engagement in the international arena; political economy and business; politics and anti-corruption efforts; migration policy; violence and human rights; and organized crime.

# Brazil Research Initiative

In addition to the scholarship of AU faculty members who conduct research on Brazil, the Brazil Research Initiative draws on the expertise of a substantial pool of Brazilian researchers who have spent periods in residence as Research Fellows at the Center. Since 2012, CLALS has hosted more than two dozen doctoral and post-doctoral fellows from Brazil. The AU Brazil Research Initiative provides an umbrella framework to catalyze continued intellectual engagement and institutional collaboration with these researchers and

their home institutions, as well as wide-ranging Center research and scholarship with a focus on Brazil. Across multiple projects, these include such topics as Brazil's changing role in the region and in global affairs, its evolving partnership with China, impacts of participatory budgeting and policymaking, the growing influence of evangelicalism, challenges posed by new transnational criminal organizations, gender and the rights of women, threats to the environment and resulting population displacement, among others.

Outcomes of this initiative include the [Brazil Research Initiative Blog](#) and a portfolio of seminars, workshops, trainings, events, and publications. This initiative is directed by Professor Matthew Taylor of the School of International Service.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Communicating  
Influence: China's  
Messaging in  
Latin America  
and the  
Caribbean



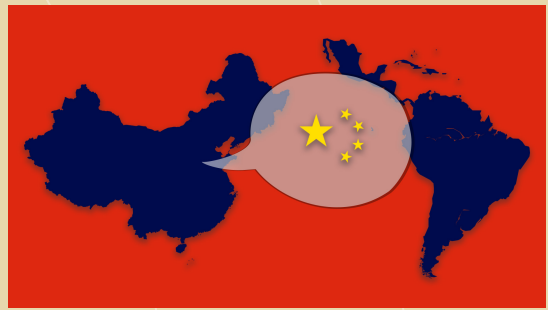
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



## COMMUNICATING INFLUENCE: CHINA'S MESSAGING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

China's economic and diplomatic presence in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has expanded dramatically since the turn of the century. Beyond unprecedented trade and investment ties, including the extension of its Belt and Road Initiative to the region, China has sought to deploy "soft power" to advance its standing. Increasingly, China deploys concerted public relations and communication strategies to shape how it is perceived across LAC, and its sub-regions and countries. However, little attention has been given to China's proactive messaging, or to the impact of these efforts on elite and public perceptions of the emerging superpower across the region.

To better illuminate China's efforts to shape perceptions of its growing role in LAC, CLALS has undertaken a research and public information initiative in collaboration with the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales. With a focus on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador, this project examines Chinese messaging in the region, with respect to three topical domains of engagement: COVID-19 public health diplomacy, information and communications technology, and public diplomacy. This initiative has produced a report, in English and Spanish, that



summarizes a state-of-the-art understanding of Chinese efforts of strategic communication in LAC. It has generated a comprehensive literature review, also in English and Spanish versions, synthesizing the state of knowledge and debate regarding China's engagement with LAC, a report on a survey of regional opinion leaders' changing perceptions of China and its role in the region, and almost two dozen infographics highlighting the evolution of China's strategic

communication with the region over the previous decade. Main project findings have been promoted through multiple blog posts, webinars focused on the four countries of interest and co-sponsored by counterpart institutions in each country, a three-episode podcast, and short video.

This research was funded through a cooperative agreement between the Institute for War & Peace Reporting and the U.S. Department of State.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Transnational  
Criminal  
Organizations  
in Brazil and  
the Southern  
Cone



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



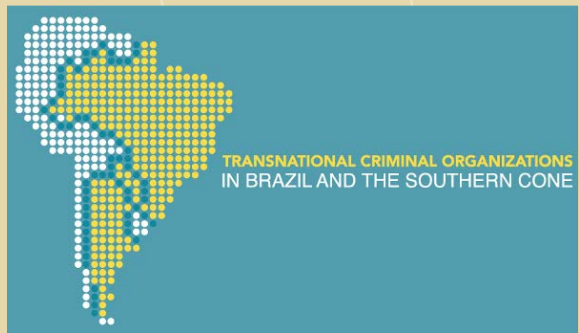
## TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BRAZIL AND THE SOUTHERN CONE

In recent years economic and political changes in Brazil and Latin America's Southern Cone have provided opportunities for transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) to strengthen their presence in the region. In some cases, this has included the cooptation of political systems and state institutions, where criminal groups have built alliances with political actors to facilitate the production and movement of illicit goods and to promote the interests of a reconfigured elite. This corruption threatens to undermine the region's young democracies, which are only now entering their second generation of electoral politics. The expanding presence of TCOs in Brazil and the Southern Cone also negatively impacts the effective functioning of regional economies. Together with community and university partners, CLALS undertook a set of projects to better understand the factors strengthening TCO's in Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay.

Together with InSight Crime and the Center for the Study of Transnational Organized Crime (CeCOT) at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, CLALS convened more than a dozen scholars and journalists on March 4-5, 2020, in La Plata, Argentina to discuss the growth of transnational criminal organizations in Brazil and the Southern Cone. The workshop was followed by a public event at the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, attended by more than 200 people, examining the rise of the Primeiro

Comando da Capital (First Capital Command or PCC) criminal organization beyond its origins in Brazil and its impact on neighboring countries, which informed a comprehensive report, "The Rise of the PCC: How South America's Most Powerful Prison Gang is Spreading in Brazil and Beyond."

The report can be found here. With funding from the U.S. Department of State, this project is a collaboration between CLALS and InSight Crime. This initiative is led by CLALS Director Eric Hershberg, InSight Crime Co-Director Steven Dudley, and AU School of International Service Associate Professor Matthew Taylor.





CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Legacies and  
Lessons of  
Hybrid Anti-  
Impunity  
Missions in  
Central America



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

## LEGACIES AND LESSONS OF HYBRID ANTI-IMPUNITY MISSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Two experiments of hybrid international-national missions against impunity and corruption in Central America, the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption in Honduras (MACCIH), have generated positive attention in the effort to curb impunity for massive corruption that preserves unequal societies and undermines democratic governance. However, their very success has generated a backlash that threatens the potential of this model here and elsewhere.



Legacies and Lessons of Hybrid Anti-Impunity Missions in Central America addresses critical knowledge gaps regarding CICIG and MACCIH, as well as their respective legacies for future anti-corruption efforts, including the ill-fated International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES). This initiative has produced multiple publications, including an article in *Americas Quarterly*, prominent blog posts,

and two CLALS Working Papers in English and Spanish. In addition, it has resulted in a detailed analysis of Illegal Clandestine Security Apparatuses (CIACS) and CICIG's work to understand and dismantle their influence in Guatemalan politics and society. CLALS has sponsored virtual panels to discuss this project's key findings alongside Alianza por las Reformas and Organización Ayudamos Honduras (OAH), Seattle

International Foundation, and la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Honduras. In addition, the Center convened 2019 and 2020 events in Tegucigalpa and Guatemala City with UNITEC and the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales (ICEFI), respectively.

With support from Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and Seattle International Foundation, this project is led by SIS Associate Professor Charles Call.



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Vidas Sitiadas:  
A Learning  
Network  
About Youth,  
Work, and  
Violence



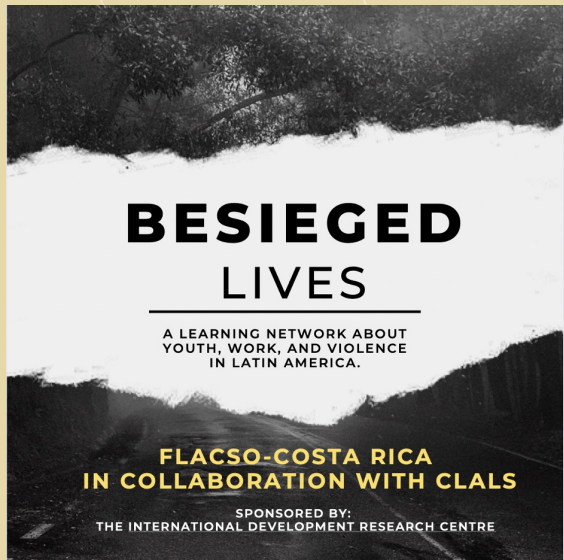
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

## VIDAS SITIADAS: A LEARNING NETWORK ABOUT YOUTH, WORK, AND VIOLENCE

Vidas Sitiadas (Besieged Lives) is a research and practice-oriented initiative to illuminate how systems of violence and marginalization impact the lives of vulnerable women and girls in Latin American cities. In partnership with la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Sede Costa Rica (FLACSO-Costa Rica), this three-year project has produced key findings on the links between youth, gender, violence, and economic opportunities in five studies conducted in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Uruguay. Additionally, this initiative analyzes local efforts to construct learning communities that provide insights to policy makers, development practitioners, academic specialists, and other influential actors in the field.

The investigations produced by the Vidas Sitiadas initiative address a variety of important topics that were shown to impact vulnerable young women in Latin America, including victimization, motherhood, intersectionality, mental health, informal labor markets, pathways to criminality, post-imprisonment reintegration, the affiliation of young women in gangs, and the impact of COVID-19.

These findings, in addition to strategies for the social inclusion of vulnerable youth, are being disseminated through English-language outlets, including a



Working Paper and three AULABLOG posts. CLALS and FLACSO-Costa Rica convened a two-day virtual seminar that featured leading experts in the field to discuss researchers' findings, systems of marginalization,

and policies for women's empowerment. Vidas Sitiadas is a collaboration between CLALS and FLACSO-Costa Rica, and is sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).



CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
& LATINO  
STUDIES

Cuba Initiative



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

## CUBA INITIATIVE

Since its inception, our Cuba Initiative has assigned priority to analyzing key challenges facing the Cuban economy, including the possibility of its further integration into international trade and financial networks. At a moment when Cuba had undertaken dramatic reforms to stimulate the development of state enterprises, cooperatives, and the private sector, we focused our efforts on assessing implications of Cuba's transition to a more market-oriented development model. As Cuba contemplates further reforms while assessing effects of those undertaken, we continue to gauge possible impacts of transformations in modes of employment, labor relations and economic regulation. Bringing together expert Cuban social scientists with American University faculty represents an important part of this strategy and enhances our assessments.



Since the project's inception in 2011, CLALS faculty-affiliates have traveled to Havana, Cuba and attended annual seminars, participated in round-table discussions, and led conferences to assess relevant events in the country. In the "post-Castro" era, our work on Cuba has continued in the form of events, blog posts, and new publications aimed at understanding

the ongoing changes on the island, especially as they correspond to the U.S.-Cuba relationship. Following the protests that swept Cuba on July 11, 2021, CLALS hosted a virtual symposium to examine the protests. This symposium presented original essays in English and Spanish that examine the political, economic, social, and cultural conditions that led up to

July 11, and the significance of these events for Cuba's future. CLALS received a substantial grant to launch a new project "Catalyzing a New Generation of Researchers Advancing Change in Cuba." This project will convene a network of Cuban researchers to analyze economic reforms and social policy.



