



Announcing Recipients of the Annual LeoGrande Award

American University's School of Public Affairs and Center for Latin American and Latino Studies are pleased to announce the co-winners of the William M. LeoGrande Award for the best scholarly book or article on Latin American or Latino Studies published by a member of the American University community, for 2019–2020.

Matthew Taylor, Associate Professor in American University's School of International Service, is a co-recipient of this year's William M. LeoGrande Award for his book *Decadent Developmentalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). Taylor offers a masterful policy and institutional analysis to explain why Brazil continues to fall short of its considerable promise. Taylor's carefully researched study of "low growth equilibrium" illuminates a decades-long pattern of economic boom-and-bust resulting in developmental paralysis. Breaking new ground, Taylor's book demonstrates how macroeconomic and microeconomic institutions conspire to promote a political and economic incentive structure that encourages private interests and political rent seeking over the public good. Perhaps most revealingly, it identifies how weak regulatory control contributes to economic stagnation and corruption. This book is effective and precise in its diagnosis of Brazil's troubles. It provides abundant evidence through detailed case studies of the consequences of persistent institutional failings for Brazil's long-term wellbeing, while offering a policy evaluation toolkit for the field of political economy of use beyond Brazil itself.

Luciana Gandini, Research Fellow in American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, and Senior Researcher in the Institute of Legal Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, is a co-recipient of this year's William M. LeoGrande Award for her book *Caravanas* (UNAM, 2020), co-authored with Alethia Fernández de la Reguera Ahedo and Juan Carlos Narváez Gutiérrez. Synthesizing media reports, official documents, interviews with immigrants and immigration officials, and ethnography, this study tells the story of the migrant caravans that passed through Mexico in 2018 and 2019, amid crises in Central America, evolving immigration policies, and the externalization of the U.S. border. This well-written book also innovatively conveys the views, biases, and empathy, expressed by middle and low-level Mexican immigration officials, demonstrating the discretionary power they have over the lives of immigrants and refugees, and the ways Mexico's haphazard approach to immigrants and asylum seekers leaves them vulnerable to crime, extortion, and kidnappings. An admirable example of collaborative research, this book offers a timely analysis from ground zero of the challenges immigrants navigate and powerfully documents their humanity.

The William M. LeoGrande Award was established in 2012 to honor Bill LeoGrande's tenure as Dean of American University's School of Public Affairs from 2003 to 2012. The endowed award was made possible through the financial support of alumni, friends, and colleagues of Professor LeoGrande. One of the world's most accomplished scholars in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy, Professor LeoGrande continues to serve as a professor of government at American University.