



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ministering to the Victims of Violence:
Christianity in Latin America in Dictatorship and Democracy
March 26-27, 2012 Washington, DC
Planning Meeting Participant List

Karina Kosicki Bellotti is Adjunct Professor of Contemporary History at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR). She earned her Ph.D. in Cultural History in 2007 from the State University of Campinas (Universidade Estadual de Campinas- Unicamp), in São Paulo, where she later held a post-doctoral position. Her dissertation, *Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven: Evangelical Children's Media Culture in Post-Modern Brazil (1950-2000)* analyzed Evangelical Presbyterian media produced for children in Brazil during the second half of the 20th century. In 2011, Bellotti published new research in the book *International Perspectives on Youth Media - Cultures of Production and Education* edited by JoEllen Fisherkeller.

Phillip Berryman was a Catholic priest in a Panama City barrio, and worked in Central America for the American Friends Service Committee. His books include *The Religious Roots of Rebellion: Christians in Central American Revolutions* (1984) and *Religion in the Megacity: Catholic and Protestant Portraits from Latin America* (1986). He is a translator of Spanish and Portuguese and has taught Latin American studies at Temple University. His current project is an introductory book on Latin America.

Robert Breneman is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Saint Michael's College. His research focuses on the impact of violence and violent social structures on human flourishing. His book, *Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America* (Oxford University Press 2011) takes a close-up look at the lives of sixty-three former gang members, many of whom joined an evangelical congregation as part of their attempt to extricate themselves from gang violence. Currently, he advises a team of Guatemalan researchers studying the impact of Pentecostal and Catholic Charismatic movements on civic participation and social capital in Guatemala City.

John Burdick is Professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University. He has explored grassroots organizations in Brazil, including liberationist Catholicism, Pentecostalism, African religious movements, the Workers' Party, the black consciousness movement and the landless workers' movement. He is the author of numerous books and publications including *Looking for God in Brazil: The Progressive Catholic Church in Urban Brazil's Religious Arena*. Currently, Burdick is completing a book that examines the role of music in the antiracism movement among evangelical churches in São Paulo.

Virginia Garrard-Burnett is Professor of Religious Studies and History at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her Ph.D. in History from Tulane University. Garrard-Burnett specializes in the religious history of Latin America with a focus on Protestantism and new

religious movements. Her most recent book, *Terror in the Land of the Holy Spirit: Guatemala Under General Efraín Ríos Montt, 1982-1983* (2010) examines the rule of the born-again Pentecostal dictator Ríos Montt, whose military government perpetrated numerous atrocities. Currently, she and Paul Freston are co-editing the *Cambridge History of Religion in Latin America*.

Joe Eldridge is the University Chaplain of American University. For over twenty-five years he has worked in the public policy arena as an advocate and analyst on international human rights and humanitarian issues, particularly in Latin America. In 1991 he established the Washington Office of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; during the mid-1980s he worked in Honduras consulting on human rights and development issues; and after a three-year sojourn in Chile in the early 1970s he co-founded the Washington Office on Latin America and served as its first director. He has an MA in International Relations from American University, a MDiv from Perkins School of Theology at SMU, and a DMin from Wesley Theological Seminary. He recently received the Louis B. Sohn award from the United Nations Association for his contributions to advancing human rights.

Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. He received his Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at universities in the U.S. and Canada. He served for fifteen years as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City, and has been a consultant to numerous development and educational agencies including the Ford Foundation and the World Bank. Professor Hershberg's research focuses on the comparative politics of Latin America, and on the politics of development. His two most recent books (both with Maxwell Cameron) analyze Latin America's "Left Turns" and participatory institutions in Latin American political systems.

Patrick William Kelly is a Ph.D. candidate in international history at the University of Chicago. He is currently completing his dissertation which explores the global history of transnational human rights activism in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina in the "long 1970s." His research has been supported by a number of fellowships, including the Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Daniel H. Levine is Professor of Political Science, emeritus, at the University of Michigan. Professor Levine works on the comparative politics of Latin America, with special interest in democracy, religion and politics, and social movements. He is the author of nine books including *Churches and Politics in Latin America*, *Popular Voices in Latin American Catholicism*, and *The Quality of Democracy in Latin America*. His latest book, *Politics, Religion, and Society in Latin America*, which will be published by the end of 2012, pays particular attention to the relations of religion with democracy and pluralism, civil society and social movements, violence, and rights and reconciliation. In 2011, he was a Public Policy Scholar and Luce Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.

Kevin Lewis O'Neill is Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department for the Study of Religion and the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto. With over a decade of research in and on postwar Guatemala City, Professor O'Neill's ethnographic work addresses the themes of responsibility and belonging by way of neo-Pentecostal Christianity. Among other publications, his first book, *City of God: Christian Citizenship in Postwar Guatemala*, details Neo-Pentecostalism's entanglement with democratization at the level of citizenship. Dr. O'Neill's current book project, *The Soul of*

Security: Gangs, God, and Guatemala, tracks Christianity's participation in an ever expanding security apparatus.

Catalina Romero is Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) and Associate and former Director of the Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas. Her research focuses on religion and politics. Romero is part of the CLACSO Working Group on Religion, State and Society in Latin America, the Network to study the quality of democracy in Latin America, and the World Values Survey organization, for which she is an Executive member. Romero is currently a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, and was previously Fellow at the Hellen Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame (1983, 2001) and a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center (2010). Romero is coeditor (with Manuel Marzal, S.J., and José Sánchez) of *Para entender la religión* (Fondo Editorial PUCP, 2004), and she has published numerous articles in English and Spanish-language journals and books.

Kimberly Theidon is John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences in Anthropology at Harvard University. Dr. Theidon's first book, *Entre Prójimos: El conflicto armado interno y la política de la reconciliación en el Perú* draws upon extensive qualitative research on political violence, trauma, religious movements and transitional justice in post-war Peru. Professor Theidon is currently conducting research in Colombia and Ecuador on two interrelated themes: the causes and consequences of populations in displacement, refuge and return -with a particular interest in the role of humanitarian organizations in zones of armed conflict; and the paramilitary demobilization process in Colombia. She is the executive director of Praxis: An Institute for Social Justice.

Alexander Wilde is research scholar and director of the project, Ministering to the Victims of Violence. He co-edited *The Progressive Church in Latin America* (with Scott Mainwaring, Notre Dame, 1989) and wrote *Conversaciones de caballeros* (Bogotá, 1982), on the breakdown of Colombian democracy in the 1940s. In recent years he has been Scarff Memorial Distinguished Visiting Professor at Lawrence University (Wisconsin.) and a Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He spent 11 years in the Ford Foundation as head of its regional office in Santiago, Chile, and then worldwide Vice President for Communications. He is a former director of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), an advocacy organization in human rights and foreign policy.

Staff:

Meredith Glueck is Program Manager at the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. A doctoral candidate in History (ABD) at the University of Texas at Austin, her dissertation is about the *baianas* of *acarajé*, Afro-Brazilian women street vendors in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil over the course of the twentieth century for which she received Fulbright support. In addition to her work in Brazil, she has conducted research about Mexican mineworkers and rural Afro-Ecuadorian communities. Previously, Meredith worked at the Environmental Defense Fund and was a volunteer counselor at the D.C. Rape Crisis Center.

Amanda Sheldon is a second year master's student in International Development in the School of International Service, with a focus in migration and development. She co-founded and continues to run a non-profit organization in Guatemala, the Guatemala Children's Education Fund, which provides academic scholarships and educational support to Guatemalan youth living on coffee farms in Western Guatemala. Prior to coming to American University, Amanda worked for the California ACLU Legislative Office as a Legislative Assistant.