Robert A. Pastor North American Research Initiative

Inaugural Workshop Participants

October 27-28, 2016 | Washington, DC

Robert Blecker is a Professor in the Department of Economics at American University (AU), and an Affiliated Professor with the School of International Service (SIS) and the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) at AU. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University and completed graduate studies at the Centro de Estudios Económicos y Demográficos at El Colegio de México. Professor Blecker’s research interests include international trade, open economy macroeconomics, the value of the dollar and the US trade deficit, economic integration in North America, the Mexican economy, the limits to export-led growth strategies in developing countries, and U.S. trade policy. His teaching fields include international economics, macroeconomics, history of economic thought, and political economy.

Philip Brenner is a Professor in the School of International Service at American University, and an Affiliated Professor in the Department of History and CLALS. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor’s in History from Columbia University. Professor Brenner has published widely on U.S.-Cuba relations, U.S.-Latin America relations, and contemporary U.S. foreign policy. His most edited volume is A Contemporary Cuba Reader (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). Since 1985, Professor Brenner has served on the advisory board of the National Security Archive and has been involved in the archive’s efforts to declassify and disseminate documents about U.S. foreign policy. He also is a member of the advisory boards of the National Security Archive and Center for Democracy in the Americas.

Ernesto Castañeda is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at American University. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University. Professor Castañeda previously taught at Columbia University, Baruch College-City University of New York, and the University of Texas-El Paso. He conducts research on migration, urban issues, health disparities, vulnerable populations, and social movements, and has published on remittances and development; integration and transnationalism; hometown associations and diaspora organizations; urban exclusion; the border fence; transnational families and the children of migrants left behind; health disparities within Hispanic, immigrant, public housing, and homeless populations. Professor Castañeda is also currently working with CLALS as a co-investigator on the project “Household Contexts and School Integration of Unaccompanied Migrant Youth.”

Michael S. Danielson is Visiting Faculty at the University of California Washington Program (UCDC) and Research Fellow at CLALS. Since receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science from American University, he has taught Latin American politics and international affairs at George Washington University, and at the NYU and Pepperdine University programs in Washington, DC. His book, A Wave That Didn’t Break: The Puzzling Inertia of Mexican Politics in the Face of Migration (working title), is under contract with...
Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2017). Professor Danielson’s research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed and policy-oriented venues and he received Fulbright, National Science Foundation, and Gill Family Foundation grants to fund his dissertation survey and field research. As a practitioner, he has consulted for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States and the Kino Border Initiative and previously served as a policy analyst for the Children's Defense Fund and the Center on Policy Initiatives.

Alexandra Délano is an Assistant Professor of Global Studies at The New School in New York City. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Oxford. Professor Délano works largely on U.S.-Mexico migration, and her book Mexico and its Diaspora in the United States: Policies of Emigration since 1848 (Cambridge University Press, 2011) was the co-winner of the William LeoGrande Prize for the best book on U.S.-Latin America Relations. Professor Délano is an associate editor for the journal Migration Studies and co-director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at The New School.

Lauren Duquette-Rury is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago. Her research examines the consequences of international migration on democracy, development, and state-society relations. In related projects, Professor Duquette-Rury research shows how migrant family and collective remittances improve social welfare in Mexico. Her research has been featured in journals such as Studies in Comparative International Development and Latin American Research Review.

Malcolm Fairbrother is an Associate Professor in Global Policy and Politics at the University of Bristol (United Kingdom), where he studies Canada, Mexico, the United States, and the creation of NAFTA. Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Professor Fairbrother holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California-Berkeley. He has published widely in various academic journals, including in the American Journal of Sociology, “Economists, Capitalists and the Making of Globalization: North American Free Trade in Comparative-Historical Perspective” (2014).

Leopoldo Gómez-Ramírez is a Profesor at Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His dissertation, “Essays on Inequality, Credit Constraints, and Growth in Contemporary Mexico” presented a model for how credit restraints can reduce capital accumulation in the case of contemporary Mexico. Professor Gómez-Ramírez also runs a radio and internet interview show in English and Spanish covering a broad range of topics related to U.S.-Mexico relations including politics, culture, and migration.

Louis Goodman is Professor and Dean Emeritus of the School of International Service at American University. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and is an Affiliated Professor of Sociology at AU. Under his leadership, SIS became the largest school of international relations in the United States. Previously, Professor Goodman served on the faculty of Yale University’s Department of Sociology and as Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Programs of the Social Science Research Council and The Wilson Center. Professor Goodman carries out research on social change and politics in Latin America and in Asia. His current research focuses on public goods, regional alliances, and development. He has published widely on civil-military relations in Latin America, on foreign investment in developing countries, and on determinants of career success for blue-collar workers.
Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. From 2007-2009 he was Professor of Political Science and Director of Latin American Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU), in Vancouver, Canada. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton, and The New School. Prior to arriving at SFU he served for fifteen years as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. His research focuses on the comparative politics of Latin America, and on the politics of development. Current research projects analyze the state of democracy and emerging development strategies in South America, and the ways in which elites exercise power in Central America. He has served as a consultant to numerous development and educational agencies, including the Ford Foundation, the World Bank, and the Swedish International Development Agency.

Tom Long is a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Reading (United Kingdom) and an Affiliated Professor with the Division of International Studies at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas in Mexico City, where he was previously a visiting professor. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from American University’s School of International Service. Professor Long studies U.S.-Latin American relations, foreign policy, Latin American politics, and the role of small and middle powers in asymmetrical relations. He recently published Latin America Confronts the United States: Asymmetry and Influence (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Marcela López Vallejo Olvera is an Associate Professor at Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) Región Centro in Mexico. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and a Master’s in North American Studies both from la Universidad de las Americas, Puebla (UDLAP). Her work centers on North American environmental politics, in particular the politics of climate change. She is the author of Reconfiguring Global Climate Governance in North America (Routledge, 2014) and co-author of Environmental Policy in North America: Approaches, Capacity, and the Management of Transboundary Issues (University of Toronto Press, 2015).

Claudia Maya is currently a Researcher at the Center for Research on North America (CISAN) and Professor at the National Autonomous University of México (UNAM). She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from UNAM, a Masters in Economics from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a Masters in Finance from the UNAM School of Accounting and Business Administration. Her research focuses on the study of international economics, in particular the changes in the North American financial system. She is currently working on a research project titled “Transformación de las estructuras financieras en los Estados Unidos y Canadá: un análisis prospectivo de la secularización.”

Clarisa Pérez-Armendáriz is an Assistant Professor at Santa Clara University. She holds a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas-Austin. Her research explores how international migrants affect political and economic development in their origin countries, and specializes in Mexican politics and in U.S.-Mexico migration. Her article “Do Migrants Remit Democracy? International Migration, Political Beliefs, and Behavior in Mexico” (2009) was featured in the journal Comparative Political Studies. Professor Pérez-Armendáriz also served as a U.S. Foreign Service officer in Mexico City.

Gema Santamaría Balmaceda is a Professor of International Studies at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and History from The New School. Professor Santamaría Balmaceda’s research focuses on violence and vigilantism in Mexico in the context
of the relationship between the United States and Mexico. Her thesis on lynching violence in Mexico won
the Charles Hale Prize for best dissertation on Mexican history from the Latin American Studies
Association. She is the co-editor of *The Politics and Publics of Violence and Crime in Latin America*
(University of Oklahoma Press, forthcoming), and held a fellowship at the University of California-San
Diego, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

Daniela Stevens is a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science at American University’s School of Public
Affairs. She is a recipient of the 2014 Tinker Field Research Grant, which supported her dissertation
research titled “Uniting Behind Presidential Bills Even in a Divided Congress: Evidence from Mexico’s
National and Subnational Legislatures.” Her research focuses on national and subnational policies that put
a price on carbon emissions; she recently wrote a blog posting titled “Mexico: Environmental Initiatives
Likely to Stir Things Up” on American University’s Latin American Blog (AULA Blog) managed by
CLALS.

Christopher Wilson is the Deputy Director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center, where he leads
the Institute’s research and programming on regional economic integration and U.S.-Mexico border
affairs. He is a Ph.D. Candidate in the School of Public Policy at The University of Maryland-College
Park, focusing geographically on the United States, Mexico, and North America. He has authored several
articles, including “Working Together: Economic Ties between the United States and Mexico” (Wilson