

# EVENTS 2013

Centre for Latin American  
Research and Documentation



**12-13 December 2019, ACES-UvA conference in collaboration with CEDLA**

**The Far Right Today. Mediating Memories of Political Violence and Resistance Across Europe, Latin America and the Wider World, 1989 – 2019**

This conference brings together a group of specialists in the humanities and the social sciences on the “history-in-the-present” of current Far Right movements and parties, from populist to (neo)fascist, in several European and Latin American countries. The growth of Far Right Movements, the rise of populism, and the crisis of liberal democracy in contemporary societies all over the world—against the backdrop of the tragic European history of political violence and totalitarianism in the twentieth century—

**15/11/13 ‘This is not a parade, it’s a protest march’: Intertextuality, citation, and political action in Bolivia and Argentina**

**Dr. Sian Lazar. Department of Anthropology. Clare College (Cambridge, UK).**

**Discussant: Prof. dr. Michiel Baud, CEDLA**

Street demonstrations are a common form of political action across Latin America. In this paper I explore some aspects of their symbolic and experiential power. I focus on ideas of physical and visual intertextuality and their importance in the construction of political agency. I do so through an examination of the symbolic and aesthetic experiential politics of dances, parades and demonstrations in Bolivia, suggesting that similarities between these practices constitute a kind of citation, which enables each to partake of the symbolic power and resonance of the others. I then move to investigate the political and symbolic work done in Argentine demonstrations by visual (and possibly auditory) intertextuality across practices separated by time.

**25/10/13 Gangs and governance: Citizenship beyond the state in Jamaica**

**Dr. Rivke Jaffe. Department of Human Geography. Planning and International Development Studies. Universiteit van Amsterdam**

**Discussant: Prof. dr. Kees Koonings, CEDLA & Utrecht University**

In inner-city neighbourhoods in Kingston, Jamaica, criminal “dons” have taken on a range of governmental functions, from security and conflict resolution to welfare and taxation. Rather than imagining such criminal actors as heading “parallel states,” they should be seen as part of a hybrid state. Criminal organizations share control over urban spaces and populations with politicians, police and bureaucrats. This talk considers the implications of this diversification of governmental actors for the ways that residents of downtown Kingston experience and enact citizenship.

04/10/13 Elecciones presidenciales en Chile (nov. 2013); lo que está en juego

Prof. Marco Moreno Pérez, Decano titular de la Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Administración Pública  
Universidad Central (Santiago de Chile)

Comentarista: Prof. Dr. Patricio Silva, Universiteit Leiden

Las próximas elecciones presidenciales en Chile colocan en tensión una vez más la inacabada discusión acerca del modelo de gobernabilidad que se instala en los 1990s. Son los elementos arquitectónicos que han caracterizado dicho modelo –eficacia, legitimidad y estabilidad– los que hoy parecen estar cuestionados. Conflictos y demandas de nuevo tipo propios de una etapa caracterizada por dos rasgos: postransición y poshegemonía neoliberal, sumado al termino del ciclo de despolitización cruzarán la disputa presidencial de noviembre próximo. Lo anterior sin embargo no debe interpretarse en forma lineal como crisis del modelo o como polarización política. Se trata más bien de cómo equilibrar la demanda por cambios sin poner en riesgo lo ganado. Las diferencias para la mayoría de los chilenos están en los énfasis y en los equipos, es decir sobre el proyecto y la capacidad de gobierno más que sobre la hoja de ruta trazada los últimos 25 años. Así, lo que parece estar en juego es sobre cómo seguir avanzando con reformas y políticas que permitan efectivamente los cambios estructurales que el país requiere dentro de una sociedad tensionada entre la prosperidad y la inclusión, que haga que esta última sea posible sin eliminar la primera.

13/09/13 Cuba and China at the crossroads

Dr. Adrian H. Hearn, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney

Discussant: Dr. Pitou van Dijck, CEDLA

The rise of China, coupled with the global financial crisis, is raising questions among policy architects and economic advisers about the optimal balance of government and market forces in world affairs. It has now become clear that the state, particularly in developing countries, is once again playing a more assertive role in economic management. Meanwhile, the state-led economy of Cuba is undergoing reforms to stimulate private entrepreneurship. China's influence in Cuba's reform process is strong, spanning everything from investment in the energy sector to finance for small businesses and wholesale supply for emerging industries. This presentation examines how Cuba, with China's support, is designing a new and more effective approach to mixing state and market forces for economic development.

13/09/13 Cuba and China at the crossroads

11/06/13 Participatory Politics in Venezuela: Local democracy and polarization

CEDLA guest lecture by Gerardo Gonzalez

Discussant: prof. Javier Corrales (Amherst College)

Abstract: Venezuela remains a deeply divided society. Political polarization is present in everyday life of most Venezuelans and the recent presidential elections (April 2013) left an electoral map that is deeply divided between the government and the opposition parties of the "Unidad". Since 2006 the government has encouraged the formation of consejos comunales, neighbourhood-based elected councils that try to implement local development projects with resources from the central government. While the more than 18,000 consejos comunales have stimulated citizens' participation for local solutions, research points at a lack of coordination between local authorities and these citizens, as well as political polarization in the consejos. In his lecture, Gerardo Gonzalez will start by showing the perceptions of Venezuelans on a number of social, economic and political problems, which indicate and explain the current polarization. The

second part of his lecture will focus on the dynamics of the consejos comunales, and their importance for participatory politics and the upcoming municipal elections.

Gerardo Gonzalez is a Sociologist (Universidad Central de Venezuela) with a Masters in Latin American Studies from CEDLA. His main areas of research are public policies intertwined with civil society, survey studies and political ethnography. His academic activities have included Professor at the School of Sociology and the School of Geography at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, Postgraduate Professor at the Universidad Católica Andres Bello and Postgraduate Professor of Public Policy Analysis at IESA and Monteávila University. He currently works at Consultores21, a think tank for social and electoral analysis in Caracas.

### **27/03/13 The road to real change is a long and bloody one**

**By Sergio Haro, Mexican journalist**

Mexican journalist Sergio Haro shares his experiences of being a reporter in the midst of Mexico's drug war. This meeting aims to give students, academics, professionals and others interested in journalism, violence and corruption in Latin America and elsewhere the chance to listen to Sergio's story and join him in a lively debate about the risky potential of journalism. The meeting also features selected scenes from the documentary and closes with drinks. [Read more](#)

### **22/03/13 Climate change, communities and the commons: Lessons from Mesoamerica**

**By Leticia Merino (UNAM, México)**

Climate change challenges are related to mitigation measures under complex nature of social-ecological processes which includes multi-scale, nested connections. Treating climate change through the "commons" perspective helps to change assumptions regarding the conventional theory of collective action and the scale of actors, actions and policies. In Mexico, and other LA countries, climate policies oriented to enhance mitigation through forest conservation should consider the enforcement of local rights and experiences of local forest management as important assets for polycentric climate policies. Recent research shows clear positive relations among local governance, local forestry economy, forest conservation and maintenance of carbon stocks and carbon balance. Nevertheless these experiences are easily eroded by over-regulation and losses of local incentives and rights, even by conservationists and climate policies. The lecture will focus on the case of Mexico where approximately 75% of forest cover is legally owned by local communities. The discussion will focus on the forest rights which are constantly contested, as their control is demanded by central governments, international conservation agencies, urban societies and corporations of different types (related to forest industry, agrarian production and mining).

Leticia Merino is anthropologist (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) with long research experience in communities governance of forests in Mexico. She has been consultant on forest policies for the World Bank Forest, FAO, the Ford Foundation, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and the United Nations Environmental Program, and published extensively on local forest governance, forest sustainability, tenure and property rights, and conservation policies. Prof. Merino has been a leading scholar in the dissemination of the Commons Theory and policy approach in Latin America. She has worked closely with the Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom, and is currently the president of the International Association for the Study of the Commons. She is also member of the scientific committee of ENGOV (Environmental Governance in Latin America), a FP7 research program funded by the European Commission coordinated by CEDLA.

22/02/13 The judicialization of politics in Latin America. Assessing the Chilean Case  
Javier A. Couso (Universidad Diego Portales, Chile; Latijns-Amerika studies, Leiden)

The "judicialization of politics", that is, the process by which the courts engage in policy-making through their sentences (particularly when reviewing the constitutionality of legislation) has been a rather unexpected development in the transition and consolidation of democracy in Latin America. After being a latecomer to this trend, Chile has seen its judiciary transform into a key political actor, due to its role in the definition of many social, political, economic and cultural issues. In the lecture, Prof. Couso will trace the origins, current features and possible evolution of Chile's embracing of this new form of governance, including an analysis of the risks to both democratic decision-making and judicial independence involved in this practice.