



## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND SEMINARS FOR WINTER QUARTER 2018**

### **U.S.-Cuba Ties: A Thaw, Revisited**

Wednesday, January 17 at 5 pm | Malamud Conference Room, Institute of the Americas Plaza

Panelists: **Ana Covarrubias**, Colegio de Mexico; **PLF Jorge Dominguez**, Harvard University; **Richard Feinberg**, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

Moderated by **Rafael Fernandez de Castro**, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

With the change in U.S. administrations in 2016, this optimism turned to pessimism as President Trump threatened to roll back the Obama administration rapprochement. Ultimately, the Trump administration's policies, while leaving key parts of the Obama-era policy intact, reinstate restrictions on Americans traveling to Cuba and U.S. business dealings with the military-run conglomerate.

The recent release detailing these new constraints leaves room for debate on how they will affect the future relationship between the two countries. In Cuba, for its part, these changes take place against a backdrop of a nation preparing for a successor to President Raul Castro in 2018.

*Sponsored by the Center for Global Transformation, co-sponsored by the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies*

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### **Mexico's 2018 Presidential Elections: Questions to be Answered**

Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 pm | GPS Classroom 3201, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: **PLF Jorge Dominguez**, Harvard University

Given the recent changes in the U.S.-Mexico binational relationship under President Trump, many new uncertainties have emerged. Will there be cooperation on such issues as immigration, trade and border security? Will the new Mexican administration continue to support policies that further U.S. interests?

CGT Pacific Leadership Fellow and Harvard University Professor Jorge Dominguez will discuss these questions, plus the extraordinary number of offices on next year's ballot and how the upcoming elections will be unique due to a number of unprecedented

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### **"Drugs, Counterinsurgency, and the Dynamic Nature of the United States-Mexico Border, 1969-1985"**

Wednesday, January 24 at 3:30 pm | Dean's Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Aileen Teague, USMEX Fellow

Examining the externalization of the U.S. war on drugs in Mexico during the 1970s and 1980s, Teague argues that the Mexican government's counterinsurgency against suspected dissidents and the role it played in the government's domestic policy agenda framed Mexico's response to U.S. drug control demands. At the center of this narrative is Mexico's Dirty War, a period from 1964 to

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1982, when the country's ruling party, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), sought to eliminate insurgent threats to its power. Framing her study by two border closures, one in 1969 and the other in 1985, she argues that as the U.S. directed millions of dollars in resources to Mexico's antidrug campaign, the Dirty War not only influenced the PRI's response to U.S. drug issues; the Mexican government also used U.S. antidrug policies in ways that facilitated its counterinsurgency efforts. This research is part of a larger discourse on the possibilities and insights yielded by integrating local political and social histories into the narrative of U.S. policy execution and its effects. In Mexico, examining the relationship between U.S. drug control and the Dirty War, sheds new light on the nature of Mexican drug violence, human rights, the Global Cold War, as well as the real and imagined divides in the U.S.-Mexico relationship. Whereas historians have tended to focus on how the U.S. forced Mexico (and other supply countries) into compliance with its drug policies during the 1970s, Teague's work draws attention to how local political histories and the agency of Mexican actors interacted with U.S. overseas policy execution. Using Mexican and U.S. archival materials, Teague contends that exploring Mexican counterinsurgency in studies of the drug war provides a richer and more complicated narrative of border restriction and the literal and figurative meanings of the U.S.-Mexico boundary on the one hand and this porous, dynamic, and transnational space on the other.

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**“Through the Looking Glass of Mexico’s Pacific Boomtown | The Decline of Port Towns and the Rise of Coastal Cities: A Synthesis of Urban Change and Coastal Development in Acapulco and Mexico, 1849-1970”**

Wednesday, February 7 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Marcel Anduiza Pimentel, USMEX Fellow

Marcel Sebastián Anduiza Pimentel is a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Chicago. His dissertation chronicles the drastic transformation of Acapulco from 1848 to 1970 when the Pacific seaport became a Gold Rush migrant station and later a tourist city. His work offers an alternative story of new cities emerging from old ports and maritime frontiers. Drawing from a wide array of archives in Mexico, California and the U.S., Anduiza Pimentel shows how Acapulco underwent profound urban changes precisely when the eastern corner of the Pacific became the North American West. By shifting the focus to seaports, his project uses the case study of Acapulco to fundamentally rethink, from a maritime perspective, our current notion of North American frontiers and how cities in these liminal spaces have emerged, grown and changed over time.

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**Rethinking the War on Drugs and U.S.-Mexico Security Cooperation**

Friday, February 9 from 9 am to 4:30 pm | UC San Diego, The Village, Building 2

Join us for an international conference, in partnership with the University of San Diego Justice in Mexico Program, to examine Mexico's security challenges, evaluate the status of current U.S.-Mexico security cooperation and propose practical solutions for policymakers in the U.S. and Mexico.

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**“Awareness of, and willingness to pay for certified vegetables: measuring incomes impacts between Mexican and American consumers and retailers in California”**

Wednesday, February 14 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Yesica Mayett-Moreno, USMEX Fellow

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Yesica Mayett-Moreno graduated with a degree in economics from Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, an M.B.A. from Universidad de las Americas and a Ph.D. in sciences from the College of Postgraduates. She is a member of the National Research System Level I, and was recently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in the University of Arkansas Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Other outreach experiences include Oklahoma State University, Portland State University and EAN – Colombia as a visiting professor.

Mayett-Moreno research focuses on agricultural practices. In developing countries, access to safe food by their poorest citizens remains a great challenge. Mexico still has 55.3 million people in poverty who face food scarcity. Food security is as important as food safety; without it, food consumption has negative impacts on their health, personal incomes, expenses for health services and inability to work.

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**“At the Limits of Sovereignty: Motion, Confinement, and Political Subjects in Transit across the Americas”**

Wednesday, February 21 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Martha Balaguera, USMEX Fellow

Martha Balaguera is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her dissertation research explores sanctuary practices of transnational solidarity, hospitality and care that bring together citizens and noncitizens in the context of transit migration across Mexico, and how their collective political struggles produce new forms of transnational citizenship from below. From a critical standpoint, the research also analyzes how border crossers have provided an occasion for both the expansion of the coercive functions of the state, and the multiplication of sites of disciplining and confinement across migration routes.

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**“The Journey of the infants: Factors associated with the construction of the resilience in transit of unaccompanied migrant children”**

Wednesday, February 28 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Chantal Lucero Vargas, USMEX Fellow

This paper examines resilience, which works as an asset that makes unaccompanied children prevail over the challenges they encounter during their migration. This research is based on interviews with unaccompanied minors from Central America who traveled through Mexico trying to reach the United States of America. These interviews had the purpose of identifying the factors associated with the development of resilience in unaccompanied migrant children. Our hypothesis is that whether these kids will build resistance or not while in transit will depend on the resources they have, the strategies they develop along their journey, their capacity, and other indicators – all of which will keep them focused on their ultimate purpose of reaching their final destination.

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**“A *pueblo* that walks together: trust and bonding among Central American transit migrants in Mexico”**

Wednesday, March 7 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Alejandra Diaz De Leon Cardenas, USMEX Fellow

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Discussant: David FitzGerald, UC San Diego

This paper investigates how Central American transit migrants use their social networks and create new ties when they are crossing Mexico on their way to the United States. Specifically, it observes how migrants react to the violence surrounding them and the conditions of cooperation and trust that emerge among strangers who are experiencing the same precarious situation.

**“Women political empowerment in Mexico: The case of Baja California and Mexico City”**

Wednesday, March 14 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Cheryl Alvarez Torres, USMEX Fellow

Based on gender theory and the perspective of political empowerment, different processes that emerge both from civil society -initiatives for the political empowerment of women with and without public financing- are analyzed, as well as processes promoted through public policies -with emphasis on the use of 3% of the budget of political parties for women's political leadership and gender quotas-, in Baja California and Mexico City, in the period of 2012-2018.

This is done under a mixed methodology through interviews, life calendars, participant observation and statistical analysis, taking up the analytical proposals of the dimensions of justice in terms of distribution, recognition and representation of Nancy Fraser (2008).

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**“Violence as Business Model: How the Armed Forces Undermine Public Safety in Mexico”**

Wednesday, March 21 at 3:30 pm | Dean’s Conference Room, School of Global Policy and Strategy

Speaker: Cecilia Farfán-Méndez, USMEX Fellow

What explains the variation of the types and levels of violence across Mexico since the onset of the war on drugs? Using interview data collected in Mexico and the U.S. and national cross-state panel data on reported murders, kidnappings, and extortions since 1997, Farfán-Méndez shows that the most important determinants of violence are not an innate preference for violence or turf wars among rival groups as anecdotal evidence would dictate. Instead, she shows that the structures of Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and the interaction effects of these structures with the military intervention partially account for the variation in the types and levels of violence observed in Mexico.