



EVENTS ARCHIVE: JANUARY 2009 - DECEMBER 2009

“Drug Violence, Public Security, and the Rule of Law in Mexico”

January 14, 2009

Dr. David A. Shirk is the Director of the Trans-Border Institute and Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of San Diego. He conducts research on Mexican politics, U.S.-Mexican relations, and a variety of policy issues along the U.S.-Mexican border.

“Indian Identity, Poverty, and Colonial Development in Mexico”

January 21, 2009

Alberto Díaz-Cayeros is an Associate Professor at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, and Director of USMEX. His research interests include poverty, development, federalism, clientelism, and patronage.

“Dangerous Journey: The Plight of Mexican Migrants to the U.S.”

January 28, 2009

Enrique Morones is the President and Founder of Border Angels, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to saving migrant lives along the border. He was recognized as one of the 100 most influential Latinos in the USA by Hispanic Business Magazine and a Frontline Human Rights International awardee for his dedication to Human Rights.

“Interpersonal and State Violences in Experiences of Migrant Women”

February 4, 2009

Martha Escobar, Assistant Professor at the California State University Northridge, focused on stories of Mexican migrant women that illustrated how the boundaries between interpersonal and state modes of violence are blurred, obscuring the role of the state in performing violence as a means of securing borders.

“National Cultures and Soccer Violence”

February 11, 2009

Sebastian M. Saiegh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at UC San Diego. In the research he discussed, Dr. Saiegh and his co-authors find a strong relationship between the history of civil conflict in a player’s home country and his propensity to behave violently on the soccer field, as measured by yellow and red cards.

“Anatomies of Justice and Chaos: Capital Punishment and the Public in Modern Mexico”

February 19, 2009

Ev Meade is a 2008-2009 visiting fellow at USMEX, a professor in the UC San Diego History Department, and cofounder of the Human Rights Minor Program. His research focuses on the memory of violence, public debate, and the negotiation of rights in modern Mexico and the United States.

“Responsiveness of the Political System and Presidential Approval in the Mexican Transition”

February 25, 2009

Ricardo Gómez-Vilchis was a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of California, San Diego and was a visiting fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies. He was awarded the Medalla Gabino Barreda by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1999.

“Innovative Industries and Policies for Innovation in the U.S.-Mexican Border”

March 4, 2009

Jorge Carrillo-Viveros is a sociologist and 2008-2009 visiting scholar at USMEX. He has participated in 40 research projects traveling through Spain, France, Japan, and the United States to complete his studies. He is the author of 7 books and the coordinator of 15 edited volumes.

“Marijuana and the Mexican Origins of the War on Drugs”

March 11, 2009

Isaac Campos-Costero, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati, examined the history of drugs, specifically marijuana, in Mexico and greater North America prior to WWII.



“The Impact of the IMSS-Oportunidades Program”

April 8, 2009

Carolina Gómez Vinales is the Director of the Opportunities Program of the Mexican Institute of Social Security. Previously, she worked for the Undersecretary of Political Development and served as the Coordinator of Communication and Social Participation of the Social Protectional National Commission in Health.

“Discretion versus Rules: Subnational Policy Regimes in Mexico”

April 22, 2009

Mauricio Benítez, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Chapman University, focused on changes in distributive politics in Mexican states after substantive budgetary decentralization in the early 2000s, on the basis of in-depth fieldwork in Jalisco, Michoacán, and Veracruz.

“The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation”

April 30, 2009

Leo Chávez, Professor of Anthropology at UC Irvine, talked about his latest book that examined the issues of anti-Latino discourse, struggles over the meaning of citizenship, and role of media spectacles in society.

“Mexican Governors as the New Democratic Actors”

May 7, 2009

Roderic Ai Camp is a Professor of the Pacific Rim at Claremont McKenna College. His interests include Mexican politics, comparative elites, political recruitment, church-state relations, and civil military affairs.

“Financial Crisis Incomes and Social Policy: Mexico and Argentina in Retrospect”

May 20, 2009

Carol Wise, Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, specializes in international political economy and development, with an emphasis on Latin America.

“The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire”

May 27, 2009

C.M. Mayo’s latest work, *The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire*, is based on the true and never before completely told story (based on original archival research) about a half-American, half-Mexican boy who, as in a fairytale, became a prince and then a pawn in the struggle-to-the-death over Mexico’s destiny.

“The Great Death: Disease, Environment, Genetics and the Transformation of Mexican Colonial Society”

June 4, 2009

This was a multidisciplinary workshop on the demographic catastrophe that followed the contact of Spanish and original peoples in the territory of what today is Mexico. The magnitude of the population loss following the Conquest remains a hotly debated issue.

“Native Peoples in Mexico and the U.S.: Approaches to Exclusion”

June 5, 2009

The aim of this meeting was to create a space for interdisciplinary dialogue across the social sciences around the question of the relationship between ethnicity and exclusion. Participants discussed how the reappraisal of ethnicity in the social sciences can enrich understanding of the relationship between ethnicity and the processes of inclusion and exclusion of native peoples.

“LASA 2009 Reception and Information Session in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil”

June 10, 2009 - June 14, 2009

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the largest professional Association in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. As part of the activities of the LASA 2009 International Congress, the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX) held a reception and information session for friends, old and new.



“Mexico and the United States: Confronting the Twenty-First Century”

July 24, 2009

Conference participants came together to provide an up-to-date assessment of key issues in the U.S.-Mexican relationship, identify points of convergence and divergence in respective national interests, and analyze likely consequences of potential policy approaches.

“Organized Crime, Militarization, and Human Rights”

September 29, 2009

Sigrid Arzt, Former Technical Secretary of Mexico’s National Security Council, discussed the Mexican federal government’s recent efforts to fight drug cartels, and the challenges that resulted from trying to balance public safety with respect for human rights during President Felipe Calderon’s administration. Co-sponsored with the Center on Emerging and Pacific Economies (EmPac).

“Elections 2009: Participation and Vigilance”

October 1, 2009

Arturo Sánchez Gutiérrez is a commissioner of the Mexican Federal Election Institute (IFE), where he is the Elections Director. He is also a member of the Committee on Radio and Television of the General Council and of the Electoral Training and Organization Committee, which is part of the Institute for Transparency and Access to Information.

“Research Workshop: Human Rights, Due Process, and Public Safety”

October 2, 2009

The purpose of this research workshop was to take stock with the current state of human rights in Mexico in the context of the imperatives of national security and personal safety that are continuously threatened by random and organized crime.

“Tertulia & Book Presentation”

October 27, 2009

Pablo Jaime Sáinz is a border journalist and fiction writer working in the San Diego-Tijuana area. “Mica chueca” is the story of undocumented immigrants from Sinaloa living in Huntington Park, in Los Angeles County. It tells the story of René Gastélum, a high school student, who without “papers” is unable to attend college.

“Field Research in Oaxaca: Trials and Tribulations”

October 28, 2009

USMEX director Alberto Díaz-Cayeros and graduate student researcher Alexander Ruiz Euler presented a series of firsthand insights, experiences and problems derived from their field work in the valley of Oaxaca during the summer of 2009.

Día de los Muertos Celebration

November 2, 2009

Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies celebrated The Day of the Dead (El Día de los Muertos or All Souls’ Day) by enjoying some pan de muerto and Mexican hot chocolate with colleagues and neighbors. Offerings/ofrendas were welcome to decorate the altar.

“The States Rise Again: Territorial Dimensions of Party Change in Mexico”

November 18, 2009

Imke Harbers, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam, and Joy Langston, Professor at CIDE in Mexico, both presented their papers. Discussants were Scott Desposato, Professor of Political Science at UC San Diego, and Steve Wuhs, Director of Latin American Studies at the University of Redlands.