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## 2020–21 AT A GLANCE



## CENTER FOR U.S.-MEXICAN STUDIES

The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX), based at the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), was founded in 1980 to study Mexico and the full range of issues affecting economic, social and political relations between Mexico and the U.S.

### MISSION

We contribute to the ongoing integration process between the U.S. and Mexico by providing a forum for thought leaders to engage in public dialogue; training and supporting a vibrant community of innovative scholars and practitioners; and undertaking cutting-edge research to guide policy decisions.

### VISION

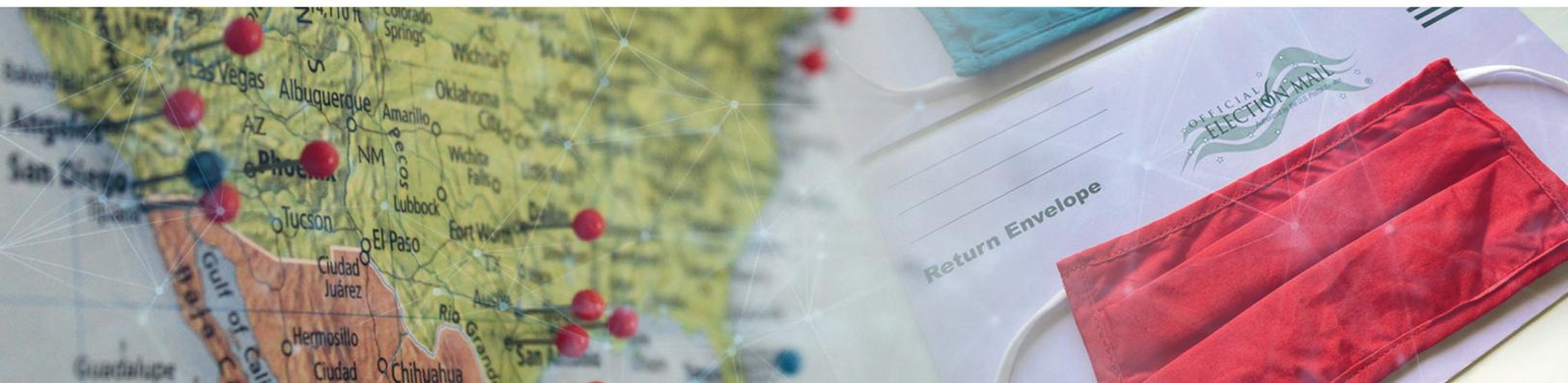
Our intellectual leadership is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all North Americans, through deepening the social and economic integration of the border region and beyond; and supporting the development and education of a dynamic cadre of leaders dedicated to the consolidation of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. Research and Publications
2. Policy Forums and Academic Working Groups
3. Conferences, Seminars and Webinars
4. Capacity Building and Community Outreach

### POLICY FORUMS AND ACADEMIC WORKING GROUPS

1. U.S.-Mexico Forum 2025
2. Emerging Stronger after COVID-19: Calibaja Working Group
3. U.S.-Mexico Climate Change Agenda Working Group
4. North and Central American Task Force on Migration



## U.S.-MEXICO CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA WORKING GROUP

In light of the upcoming COP-26 Glasgow meeting, USMEX, The Brookings Institution, and Tecnológico de Monterrey have launched a group to explore avenues for greater cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico to achieve each country's climate goals. Although the U.S. and Mexico differ in their goals and ambitions, there are opportunities for mutual learning, project coordination and financing.

The group will explore five key areas for climate cooperation:

1. Short-lived Climate Pollutants
2. Energy Efficiency
3. Just Energy Transition and Nature-Based Solutions
4. Climate and Finance
5. Renewable Power Development



In launching the group, we are committed to: 1) Enhance the energy security of the U.S. and Mexico, 2) Make the production and use of energy sustainable, 3) Job creation.

## NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION

In concert with the World Refugee & Migration Council, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and El Colegio de México, USMEX launched the Task Force on Migration with the intent to elaborate a regional response to the migration and displacement crises in the Americas.

The proceedings will follow four dimensions:

1. Co-responsibility and cooperation for managing migration
2. Legal pathways for migration as an alternative to irregular migration
3. Humanitarian protection, particularly women and children who are at greatest risk
4. Investment in long-term development and changes in the rule of law

Task Force Co-chairs:

- » Hon. Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State, USA
- » Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, former Foreign Minister, Canada
- » Hon. Laura Chinchilla, former President, Costa Rica
- » Dr. Silvia Giorguli, President, El Colegio de México, Mexico
- » Cardinal Álvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of Huehuetenango, Guatemala

## WEBINARS AND CONFERENCES

In 2020, USMEX hosted 30 webinars, which accrued over 12,000 RSVPs. For 2021, we established three partnerships for monthly panel conversations on U.S.-Mexico relations:

- » Held the last Thursday of each month, El Financiero Bloomberg series "Meet Point", is made available online and on TV.
- » Available on Zoom and across different platforms, this series is in partnership with El Universal and nine other Mexican newspapers as well as the Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales, and is garnering over 100,000 views per webinar.
- » Our series, "A Tiempo y Bien" on Tijuana Innovadora "Reflexión México", seeks to bring different experts to discuss the Mexican political system. In April, we hosted a live debate with the candidates for the governorship of Baja California.

Webinar 5  
Educación para la ciudadanía

"El Amor es Ciego"  
Instituto Nacional Electoral

Lorenzo Córdova

Jueves 13 de mayo, 2021  
9:00 - 10:00 AM (PST)

English Simultaneous Translation

A TIEMPO Y BIEN

SERIE REFLEXIÓN MEXICO

Conducen:  
José Galick, Claudia Basurto, Rafael Fernández de Castro

Tijuana Innovadora UC San Diego

Registro en el enlace

## U.S.-MEXICO FORUM 2025

The election of Joseph Biden and the COVID-19 crisis created a prime opportunity to rethink and redesign the relationship between Mexico and the United States. With this objective, we created the U.S.-Mexico Forum 2025, a group of 100 Mexican and U.S. scholars, practitioners and experts who undertook the task of proposing a course for the bilateral relationship for the next four years (2021-2025).

The Forum consists of five working groups: migration, security and public health, trade and economy, energy and sustainable development, and strategic diplomacy.

The Forum's aim is to encourage cooperation between both countries and to avoid, as much as possible, the frictions that can emerge in a relationship as intense, complex and asymmetric as the one between the United States and Mexico.

Three consensus conclusions emerged from the Forum's discussions:

1. President Biden's arrival to the White House represents an important window of opportunity to deepen cooperation between the two countries. He is a leader who knows Mexico and he sees the bilateral relationship as one of enormous potential.
2. President López Obrador and his diplomatic team will nevertheless need to take the initiative and capitalize on the goodwill and knowledge of President Biden's team, and ensure that their experience with Mexico serves

to help resolve issues such as the partial closure of the border.

3. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is the central instrument for coordinating economic and commercial interactions between the countries. Respecting its clauses and prioritizing its implementation is essential to moving the bilateral relationship forward.

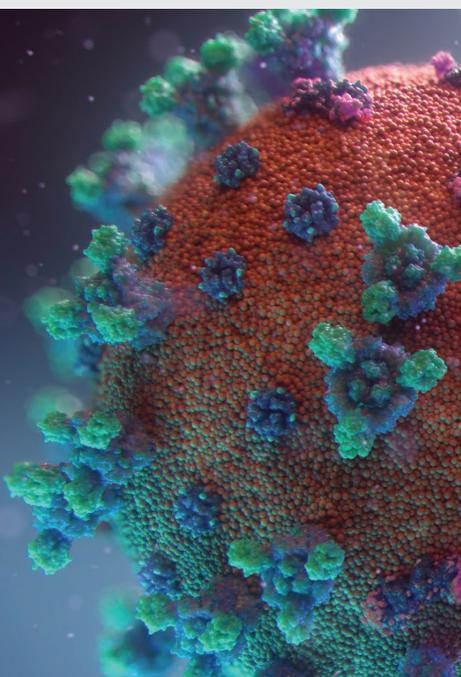
The report is available at: [usmex.ucsd.edu](http://usmex.ucsd.edu)



## EMERGING STRONGER AFTER COVID-19: CALIBAJA WORKING GROUP

USMEX, the Mexican Consulate in San Diego and the International Community Foundation launched a series of conversations to discuss key cross-border issues. The working group seeks to identify best practices and areas for improvement during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to create specific recommendations to strengthen Calibaja's integration.

A report will be published in the fall, aiming to become a blueprint for Calibaja's integration. With Sempra's sponsorship, the group will evolve into the Calibaja Friday Lunch.



## BILATERAL SECURITY COOPERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS



On September 2020, USMEX launched the **Mexico Violence Resource Project (MVRP)**, an online platform that provides information, analysis, research and resources for understanding violence and organized crime in Mexico. Read by policymakers

in DC and Mexico City, as well as academics, MVRP has provided insights to The New York Times, The Economist, The Financial Times, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Embassy in Mexico among others. Visit: [mexicoviolence.org](http://mexicoviolence.org)

USMEX is a partner of the **Mexico Opium Project** that conducted 15 months of fieldwork in Guerrero, Nayarit, Sinaloa and Durango, and gathered unprecedented quantitative data to produce novel insights regarding opium poppy cultivation and economy. The project was featured in leading Mexican and U.S. media.

The USMEX security and human rights team has also established three partnerships for the rest of the year:

- » Foreign Service Institute
- » México Evalúa
- » The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

## FELLOWS PROGRAM

Each year, the center invites scholars and practitioners to campus from a wide range of disciplines as part of its residential Fellows' Program. Due to COVID-19 the cohort gathered remotely for its weekly activities and seminars. The former fellows, now numbering over 750, are the core of the center's intellectual community and hold prominent positions in academia, government, civil society and the private sector.

Recently, three former fellows received awards from the Latin American Studies Association through its Mexico section, including Best Dissertation, Best Article in the Humanities, and Best Book in Social Sciences. Drs. Gema Kloppe-Santamaria, Sarah Luna and Martha Balaguera completed important elements of this research while in residence at USMEX.

## U.S. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS SUMMER SEMINAR

Since 2019, USMEX hosts a summer program designed for early-career Mexican policymakers, advanced students and young professionals. The program focuses on U.S. institutions and decision-making processes, the political system, border dynamics and U.S.-Mexico relations. The summer program is generously supported by the U.S. embassy in Mexico. Due to the high demand, we have begun accepting classes of 100 students.