



SCIENCES PO



REPLA CALL FOR PAPERS 2008

**III Annual Meeting of the European Network on Latin
American Politics –REPLA–**

***A Multidisciplinary Approach to Democratization in
Latin America***

**Institute for Iberoamerican Studies, University of Salamanca
Salamanca (Spain), May 7th & 8th, 2009**

The European Network on Latin American Politics (REPLA) is an academic initiative, launched by Ph.D students interested on Latin American politics. REPLA is aimed at establishing a formal network of academic institutions focused on Latin American Studies.

According to this goal, REPLA's third Annual Meeting will gather Ph.D. students from different countries and disciplines in order to present papers and exchange ideas on current Latin American issues. Therefore, this meeting will become an excellent opportunity to forge a solid network among participants as well as among their home university institutions.

REPLA III Annual Meeting format

24 papers will be presented in six different workshops during two days (May 7th & 9th, 2009). Each speaker will present his or her research for 15 minutes. Following the presentation, a commentator will take the floor to launch a one-hour discussion with all the attendants.

Participants requests

- Enclose an accreditation of being a Ph.D student.
- Present a paper proposal linked to any of the defined panels.
- Enclose an abstract as well as a paper summary.
- Working languages: papers can be presented either in English or in Spanish.

** People interested in attending III Annual Meeting without any paper presentation are also welcome. For confirmation, please write to the following e-mail address: repla2009@usal.es*

Dead-lines

- Dead-line: **November 30th, 2008.**
- Abstracts and summaries extension: between 500 and 700 words. Every paper proposal should clearly indicate: title, panel in which is located, research targets and used methodology. Paper proposals will be send to the following e-mail address: repla2009@usal.es
- Acceptance of participants will be communicated by **December 20th, 2008.**
- Dead-line for final papers: **April 1st, 2009.**

Paper Presentation (requests)

- Extension: 9000 words (maximum), including abstracts, bibliography and indexes.
- Printing characteristics: Times New Roman, 12, single space.
- Every page should be numbered on the lower right-side corner.
- Bibliography will be detailed at the end of the paper.
- Every paper must include a brief summary in English and in Spanish (500 words maximum, each).
- Every paper must clearly include the following information: author, academic institution and contact e-mail address.

Grants

REPLA will provide lodging (hotel rooms on May 6th & 7th) and transport from Madrid and Valladolid to Salamanca to all participants (round trip tickets). Other spending will be covered by each participant.

Panel 1:

***Representative Institutions and Political Processes in
Latin America***

Coordinator: Lina María Cabezas Rincón (USAL)

lmcabezas@usal.es

Democratic consolidation needs an institutional development which allows the State and political actors to solve social problems. Besides, institutional improvement will also be necessary to defend citizens Rights, to assure the independence of State Powers and to provide social welfare.

Many improvements have been done in Latin American countries: electoral processes are the main way to choose rulers, there are new forms of political accountability, there exits new mechanisms to avoid conflict amongst public powers, transparency is higher as well as political participation in political parties. However, Latin American democracies do not progress in the same way: some countries strengthen their democratic institutions. Other do not.

This panel tackles the institutional performance of Latin American political institutions in current political contexts. The questions to answer are the following: Which is the relationship between political and institutional reforms and the contemporary situation of Latin American countries?. Besides, how do these reforms affect to institutional performance?

At this respect, all those selected papers will be focused on the analysis of Executive and Legislative performance in relationship with other actors of the political system, such as political parties.

Panel 2:

Civic Culture and Citizenship in Latin America

Coordinator: *María Laura Tagina (USAL)*
marialaura@usal.es

This panel is aimed at analyzing the relationship between civic culture and citizenship in Latin America. This is a relevant issue since it helps to understand the way political systems work (taking also into account the relationship between political actors and institutions). These kinds of researches are especially important in Latin American countries.

Civil culture has been considered by some authors an explicative variable of political processes, State institutional performance, local political dynamics and governability. Besides, civic culture influences in many ways the relationship between political actors and institutions. Thus, civic culture establishes, amongst many other things, the way in which political actors conduct themselves within the political system as well as the way they are perceived by others.

At this respect, this panel is aimed at answering the following questions: How do dominant social values affect to citizenship? What kind of citizenship satisfaction with democracy exists in Latin American countries? Which are the values, perceptions and attitudes of citizens towards democratic institutions?. Which are the perceptions from rulers and political elite about problems of democracy in Latin America?. Which are the main variables that affect civic culture in the region?.

Panel 3:

Public Policies and Democratization Processes

Coordinators: Louise Bosetti (SciencesPo Paris)
Rodrigo Goyena-Soares (SciencesPo Paris)
rodrigo.goyenadasilveirasoares@sciences-po.org
Giancarlo Nasi Canas (SciencesPo Paris)
giancarlo.nasicanas@sciences-po.org

20 years away from transitions to democracy in Latin American countries, several authors state today that democratization is an unfinished process. That is the reason why concepts such as “democratic consolidation” and “quality of democracy” are central to study Latin American countries. However, at the same time, it has raised the term “crisis of democratic paradigm”. Therefore, given this context, the study of society from the democratic point of view is the best way to avoid the problems brought by “theory of democratization”.

On one hand, States must implement public policies that allow them to give an answer to socio-economic problems as well as to strengthen its legitimacy all over the national territory. Therefore, democratic institutions must support public action. At this respect, public policies legitimate the State action in the new democratic context.

On the other hand, Latin American States are usually suffering from a tension between national and international norms, values and political practices. Therefore, norms, values and political practices are not detached from the study of public action. On the contrary, they enrich the cognitive and normative approach of public policies. According to this approach, public action is organized around interpretative frameworks of reality. The design of a public policy implies, overall, the construction of a reality in which the rulers want to act. The study of public policies allows us to analyze the results of the democratization process in Latin America. Thus, the

study of public policies in different sectors offers several new perspectives on Latin American democratization processes.

In this panel we will tackle the following questions: to what extent the implementation of public policies contributes to consolidate democracies in Latin America? and, how should we understand the resulting tension between State reconstruction and State democratization?

Panel 4:

The political economics of governance at the sub-national level

Coordinators: *Matías Bianchi (Sciences Po, París)*
 matias.bianchi@sciences-po.org
 Martín Lardone (Sciences Po, París)

Over the past twenty years, the main currents in Political Science in Latin America have focused on two main phenomena: the transition to democracy and economic reforms. However, theories on democracy and development have concentrated on understanding processes of transition at the national level. Currently, a new generation of studies has begun to analyse two related situations that have not previously been considered at the national level: on one hand, the variety and diversity of political and economic regimes at the sub-national level; and on the other the impact of sub-national political and economic dynamics at the national level. In this way, even when there has been clear progress in the different countries' democratic – and up to a point economic – practices, at the sub-national level there are a wide variety of experiences of political regimes that cannot really be defined as democratic and productive financial systems. On the other hand, the idea of governance has contributed to a new interpretation of the links between economics and politics in the face of the challenges of development. From this perspective, the aim of this panel is to analyse these different sub-national scenarios by stimulating comparative analyses from the point of view of political economics.

Papers should offer replies to a series of questions that help explain the processes of political and economic development at the sub-national level, focusing on the links between both processes. These questions are: What are the mechanisms by which democratic practices are consolidated (or not) within sub-national governments? What factors make it easier or more difficult for competitive political and economic markets to emerge?

What is the role of tax structures? What is the influence of inter-governmental dynamics? What is the role of international and/or super-national actors? How do the state's capacities affect the governability of the economy? What is the relationship between the professionalization of the state bureaucracy and the quality of policy and politics? What is the relationship between democratic and economic development at the sub-national level?"

Panel 5:

***International Human Rights Institutions and
Democratization***

Coordinators:

Par Engstrom (Oxford University)

par.engstrom@politics.ox.ac.uk

Thomas Pegram (Oxford University)

thomas.pegram@politics.ox.ac.uk

This panel explores the ways in which international human rights institutions promote a domestic agenda of rights within democratic states in Latin America. In particular, the panel welcomes case studies of particular international human rights institutions and mechanisms that seek to evaluate their impact on processes of democratization at the domestic level in Latin American countries.

At the global level, the development of increasingly ambitious human rights norms within an ever more dense institutional framework has led to the consolidation of an international human rights system. Today, the realm of international human rights is formally constituted through regional (e.g. the Inter-American Human Rights system) and global treaty systems (under the auspices of the United Nations), international institutions, and a plethora of monitoring bodies producing annual reports and reviews, supplemented by ad hoc commissions, international tribunals, and the adjudication of cases. The political struggles in international fora surrounding human rights problems have provided the platforms upon which activists and states have manoeuvred in building an international human rights system. The proliferation of international organs for the formulation, interpretation and increasingly adjudication of human rights norms together with the increasing enmeshment of states with these international institutional arrangements has undeniably transformed the formal responsibilities of states. Yet, the domestic

implementation of these increasingly ambitious and intrusive human rights norms remains piecemeal. Hence, the political salience of human rights lies not only in the depth and width of their international institutionalization, but most significantly in the process of internalization that link international human rights to domestic political institutions and actors.

This panel will therefore seek to stimulate a debate on the existing connections between the domestic struggles for human rights on the one hand and the broader political and normative structures within which these struggles are embedded – at the international, national, and local levels. The papers will address (1) how the relevant international human rights institutions work in practice. Against this general background, the panel will explore (2) the political character of the interaction between international human rights institutions and domestic constitutional developments.

The panel will also examine (3) how these developments affect domestic political actors and institutions; including (i) governmental leaders and state bureaucracies; (ii) judges and judicial institutions; and (iii) civil society actors and organizations.

Panel 6:

National Human Rights Institutions: Enabling Rights Implementation

Coordinators:

Par Engstrom (Oxford University)

par.engstrom@politics.ox.ac.uk

Thomas Pegram (Oxford University)

thomas.pegram@politics.ox.ac.uk

This panel explores the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in the transmission and mediation of human rights norms within democratising political systems. Despite their relative novelty, the experience of NHRIs points to a range of challenges in enabling rights protection and promotion at the domestic level in Latin America. In particular, the panel welcomes case studies that explore the process of political negotiation by which these formal institutions acquire visibility and influence.

Mandated to implement international human rights norms at the domestic level, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) have been instituted in countries across the globe, increasing from eight offices in 1990 to 65-70 in 2008. Broadly defined by the UN Paris Principles of 1991, NHRIs include National Human Rights Commissions, as well as 'hybrid' Ombudsman offices, principally found in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. The United Nations (UN) and Organisation of American States (OAS) played a pivotal role in supporting the creation of these state agencies as vehicles of collaboration with international and regional human rights bodies. The propensity for scholars to dwell on the structural and legal contours of NHRIs carries limitations. The premise of this panel is that NHRIs remain conceptually, empirically and politically under-specified. Sharing similar institutional attributes, the experience of NHRIs nevertheless displays considerable variation in diffusion effects. What explains the apparent failure of NHRIs in Mexico and Nigeria in performing a rights protection and promotion function at the domestic level, as opposed to contrasting

experiences of offices in Ghana and Peru? Beyond robust institutional design, the impact of NHRIs is a context-bound process, historically and normatively, driven by political contestation and competing conceptions of their appropriate function as adjudicative (control of the exercising of power) and/or political (promoting 'virtuous' politics e.g. redressing state failure to act) entities.

This panel seeks to deepen understanding of the capabilities of these formal human rights institutions to enable the implementation of international human rights norms at the domestic level. Toward this objective, the papers will address: (1) NHRIs as a locus of domestic political struggle and among whom, (2) how NHRIs interpret and activate their legal mandate, (3) whether these new institutions function to create, stabilise, extend and/or deepen rights, (4) the exercising of an adjudicative and political function through traditional and innovative channels.