Latin America Conference 2024 Participants

School of Public and International Affairs - Princeton University

April 17th - April 18th

Princeton Community:

- 1. Dean Amaney Jamal
- 2. David Wilcove
- 3. Ambassador Juan Carlos Pinzon

Keynote Speaker: President Guillermo Lasso

- 4. President Guillermo Lasso
- 5. Gabriela Frias

Panel I: Economic and Social Development

- 6. Micaela Sviatschi
- 7. William Maloney
- 8. Alfonso Prat-Gay
- 9. Ernesto Revilla

Panel II: Political Context in Latin America

- 10. Miguel Centeno
- 11. Rebecca Bill Chavez
- 12. Dan Restrepo
- 13. Viridiana Rios

Panel III: Investment Potential in Latin America: A Perspective of Private Sector Leaders

- 14. Luis Carlos Velez
- 15. Robert Mosbacher Jr
- 16. Haroldo Espalter
- 17. Laura Clavijo

Panel IV: Green Future

- 18. Joao Bhiel
- 19. Juan Pablo Bonilla
- 20. Ramon Cruz
- 21. Miriam Medel Garcia
- 22. Mauricio Rodas

Keynote Speaker: Michael Reid

- 23. Michael Reid
- 24. Razia Iqbal

Keynote Speaker: President Michelle Bachelet

- 25. President Michelle Bachelet
- 26. Luis Carlos Velez

Panel V: Global Competition in the Region

- 27. Ambassador Carolina Barco
- 28. Admiral Craig Faller
- 29. Brian Winter
- 30. Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdes
- 31. Todd Robinson

Panel VI: Regional Stability and Migration

- 32. Barbara Buckinx
- 33. Ambassador Martha Barcena
- 34. Maria Fernanda Espinosa
- 35. Mark Feierstein
- 36. Jason Marczak
- 37. Ambassador Thomas Shannon

Panel VII: Regional Security and Organized Crime

- 38. Jacob Shapiro
- 39. Brian Nichols
- 40. Ambassador William Brownfield
- 41. Eddy Acevedo

Panel VIII: Central America: Challenges and Opportunities

- 42. Eduardo Bhatia
- 43. Rafael Barraza
- 44. Maria Antonieta del Cid
- 45. Ambassador Frank Mora

Panel IX: Latin American Culture

- 46. Gabriela Frias
- 47. Mauro Castillo

Keynote Speaker: President Ivan Duque

- 48. President Ivan Duque
- 49. Razia Iqbal

Princeton Community

Dean Amaney Jamal

Dean; Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics and Professor of Politics and International Affairs



Prior to becoming SPIA's Dean, Jamal served as Director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice. Also, directs the Workshop on Arab Political Development and the Bobst Center-American University of Beirut Collaborative Initiative. She is the co-founder and co-principal Investigator of the Arab Barometer Project and has secured over \$5 million in grants for this and other projects from the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative, National Science Foundation and others. In 2006, Jamal was named a Carnegie Scholar. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan

Ambassador Juan Carlos Pinzon

John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor and Lecturer, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs



Prior to Princeton, Juan Carlos Pinzón served two-times as Ambassador of Colombia to the United States, during the period 2021 to 2022 and 2015 to 2017. Previously, he served as Colombia's Minister of Defense from 2011 to 2015 and Chief of Staff to the President from 2010 to 2011. In addition to these positions, Juan Carlos Pinzón has built a long experience in the private and multilateral sector over the years, and participated in political campaigns as a presidential and vice-presidential candidate.

David S. Wilcove

Vice Dean, SPIA; Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs and the High Meadows Environmental Institute



Before joining Princeton, Wilcove worked as a scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, the Wilderness Society, and others. He is the author of books and numerous articles on biology, ornithology, and wildlife conservation. Wilcove has served on the boards of several conservation organizations and has received awards for his contributions to conservation science. He holds degrees from Yale and Princeton. Wilcove's research encompasses the impact of human activities such as farming, logging, and climate change on biodiversity.

Keynote Speaker: President Guillermo Lasso

Former President of Ecuador

President Guillermo Lasso

Former President of Ecuador



Guillermo Lasso has an extensive career of more than 50 years dedicated to the public and private sector of Ecuador. Prior to becoming President of his country, he served in several positions, such as Minister of Economy, Ambassador or Executive President of Banco de Ecuador. He is recognized for improving Ecuador's competitiveness and openness to the world, defending the values of economic and political freedom. He is currently Professor at Florida International University.

Gabriela Frias CNN - EE Anchor



Gabriela Frías is a Mexican journalist with more than two decades of experience. Frías is currently the anchor of *Panorama Mundial*, the network's stellar news program with the most relevant events in the world. Frías was an international and Latin American financial news anchor on CNN for more than 13 years, interviewing world leaders, reporting on global financial issues, traveling to high-level events, such as the G-20 in Mexico and the World Economic Forum in Davos. She is recognized as a leader in business journalism in Latin America.

Panel I: Economic and Social Development

Micaela Sviatschi

Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University



Sviatschi is affiliated with several research networks and organizations, focusing her research on investigating how children become involved in criminal activities such as drug trafficking and gangs, the impact of organized crime on economic development and the role of norms and policing in reducing gender-based violence through randomized control trials in various locations around the world. Additionally, Sviatschi collaborates with governments on designing and evaluating public policies related to crime and gender violence. She has wide field experience in countries such as Peru, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia,

Bihar, and the US.

William Maloney

Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean Region, The World Bank



Maloney has held various positions within The World Bank, including Chief Economist for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions, and Trade and Competitiveness, as well as Global Lead on Innovation and Productivity. Before, he was an assistant professor of Economics at the University of Illinois. He has also served as Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist for Latin America and the Development Economics Research Group. Additionally, he worked with the Colombian government on innovation and firm upgrading issues while serving as a visiting professor at the University of the Andes. Maloney holds a PhD in economics from the

University of California Berkeley and a BA from Harvard University.

Alfonso Prat-Gay Former Minister of Finance of Argentina



Prat-Gay has dedicated more than 15 years to public service in Argentina. Before becoming the Minister of Finance in 2015, Alfonso served as National Deputy for the city of Buenos Aires, performing as President of the Civic Coalition Deputies Block and President of the Finance Committee. Prior to his legislative experience, he was President of the Central Bank of Argentina. As well, Prat-Gay has a long and wide experience in the private sector leading banking and finance scenarios.

Ernesto Revilla Managing Director and Chief Economist for LAC, Citibank



Ernesto Revilla is the Managing Director and Head of Latin America Economics at Citigroup. He joined Citi in 2015 as Mexico economist. Before, he had a 12-year career at Mexico's Finance Ministry where he was Chief of the Tax Policy Unit, and from 2012 to 2015, Chief Economist. In that position, Revilla headed macroeconomic planning, coordinated Mexico's National Development Plan from 2013 to 2018, served as advisor to the minister and participated in budget negotiations. Earlier, Revilla was an economist at the World Bank where he was a financial economist and later East-Asia economist.

Panel II: Political Context in Latin America

Miguel Centeno

Musgrave Professor of Sociology; Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, Princeton University



Centeno has performed several roles in Princeton University, such as Executive Vice-Dean of SPIA. He has published many articles, chapters, and books. His latest publications are War and Society, Global Capitalism, States in the Developing World and State and Nation Making in the Iberian World. He is the founder of the Research Community on Global Systemic Risk funded by PIIRS and has served as Head of First College, Founding Director of PIIRS, and Chair of the Sociology Department. He has a PhD in Sociology from Yale University.

Rebecca Bill Chavez President & CEO, Inter-American Dialogue



Rebecca served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere. She focused on Women, Peace and Security initiatives to strengthen defense relations with countries such as Mexico, Colombia, or Argentina. Prior to that, Dr. Chavez was a professor at the United States Naval Academy. Her work has been published in academic journals and media outlets such as The New York Times and Foreign Policy. Dr. Chavez is an Alumni of Princeton SPIA, among other institutions such as Stanford. Besides, she is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dan RestrepoFormer National Security Western Hemisphere Senior Director



Dan Restrepo is a well-recognized Latin America analyst. For nearly six years and following two presidential campaigns, Restrepo was a senior advisor to President Barack Obama on matters related to Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, serving as special assistant to the president and senior director for Western Hemisphere affairs at the National Security Council from 2009 to 2012. He was also an advisor and delegate for Obama for America in the 2008 and 2012 campaigns. Previously, Restrepo created The Americas Project at the Center for American Progress.

Viridiana Rios Mexican Scholar and Author



Viridiana is a Mexican academic specialized in public policy analysis with data. She writes for El País and Milenio, and is an instructor at Harvard Summer School. In 2020, the World Economic Forum named her a "Young Global Leader" for her "vision and influence in driving positive change in public policy in Mexico" and in 2021 she received the International Women's Forum Fellowship. A few years earlier, the British magazine The Economist described her as a force that "moves and shakes" Mexico, and the Harvard Gazette selected her as one of the fifteen stellar graduates of her generation.

Panel III: Investment Potential in Latin America: A Perspective of Private Sector Leaders

Luis Carlos Velez Univisión Noticias Anchor



Velez is a Colombian-American journalist leader. He serves as the director of the news slot at RCN Radio's La FM in Colombia and as anchor and director of the opinion show Linea de Fuego at TelevisaUnivision's VIX's Noticias Univision 24/7 digital channel in Miami. Previously, he worked as an economic journalist and director/presenter at Citytv and Caracol Radio, and as director of Noticias Caracol at Televisión. He has also contributed to international media outlets such as CNN en Español and Telemundo Internacional. Velez holds additional studies from the London School of Economics and is pursuing a Masters in Public Administration in

Harvard University.

Robert Mosbacher Former President & CEO of Overseas Private Investment Corporation



Mosbacher served as the President and CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. He currently sits on the boards of Calpine Corporation and Devon Energy Corporation. Mosbacher is the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of BizCorps, a nonprofit organization focused on assisting SME entrepreneurs in emerging markets. He has held leadership positions in various organizations, including the Greater Houston Partnership, Methodist Hospital, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross. Mosbacher earned his law degree from Southern Methodist University and his B.A. from Georgetown University.

Haroldo Espalter President of the Uruguay-U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Espalter is an expert in corporate commercial law, having advised several national and international companies. He is currently Partner of the well-known firm Hughes & Hughes. He is a Doctor in Law and Social Sciences from the Universidad de la República. Also, has further studies from the Academy of American International Law in Texas. He is recognized in Uruguay as a leader creating bridges between the private sector and the State to improve trade opportunities in his country.

Laura Clavijo Chief Economist of Bancolombia Group



Clavijo is an economist from the Universidad de los Andes with a postgraduate degree in Public Administration from Columbia University. Her professional career of more than 15 years has been enriched by various roles in the public and private sectors, and her research work in multilateral organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank. Laura is recognized for her leadership to promote technological innovation in the financial system and the consolidation of the fintech ecosystem, including the development and implementation of the first regulatory sandbox in Latin America for innovative models.

Panel IV: Green Future

João Biehl

Susan Dod Brown Professor of Anthropology; Chair, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University



Biehl is the Director of the Brazil LAB at Princeton University. He is the author of the award-winning books *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment* and *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. At the Brazil LAB is leading an academic partnership with Brazil's Museu Nacional, focusing on indigeneity and perspectivism, Amazonian poetics, and the anthropology of the home. He is also helping to curate Captured + Escaped, a digital platform of storied images of different phases of the institution of slavery in Brazil. Through the Amazonian Leapfrogging project, Biehl is chronicling efforts to articulate an alternative vision for the Amazonian basin. He

has a PhD in Anthropology from University of California.

Juan Pablo Bonilla

Manager of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, IDB



Bonilla has worked on environmental sustainability and climate change for more than 20 years. He led the IDB's Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative. Before joining the IDB, Bonilla worked as Senior Specialist at the World Bank, and was a member of the United Nation's CDM Executive Board. In Colombia, Bonilla served as Deputy Minister of Environment, and acting Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development. He possessed a B.A. in Civil Engineering from Universidad Javeriana and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. from George Washington University.

Ramon J. Cruz Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor, Princeton University



Cruz is a graduate of American University and Princeton University. He has more than 20 years of experience in sustainability advocacy, environmental and energy policy, urban planning, and climate change. He has worked in the private sector as deputy director of the state environmental regulatory agency in Puerto Rico, held leadership positions at the Environmental Defense Fund, Partnership for New York City and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

Miriam Medel Garcia

Director, Strategy and Climate Policy, Onepoint5 and Former Chief of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification



Garcia is a career diplomat from Mexico with deep expertise and knowledge in multilateral negotiations, particularly in the areas of climate action and sustainability. For the past six years, she has held leadership roles at the UNCCD and UNFCCC Secretariats, developing expertise in policy advocacy related to the Rio Conventions and their implementation. Previously, she was the Political Attaché of Mexico to Germany and has held several positions as a Mexican diplomat and multilateral negotiator.

Mauricio Rodas Former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador



Rodas is Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania; Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council; and Co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Commission on BiodiverCities by 2030. Rodas is also a member of the United Nations' Committee of Experts on Public Administration; Distinguished Fellow on Global Cities at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; and member of the Advisory Committee of the Global Parliament of Mayors. In 2019, he was named one of the 100 Worlds' Most Influential People on Climate Action by Apolitical. He is a former Young Global Leader and member of the Global Future Council on Cities and Urbanization of the World Economic

Forum. In 2013 he ran for president of Ecuador.

Keynote Speaker: Michael Reid

Former Chief Americas Director of The Economist and LSE Professor

Michael Reid

Former Chief Americas Director of The Economist and LSE Professor



Michael Reid is one of the world's leading analysts on Latin American affairs. Reid is an author, journalist and visiting professor at the School of Public Policy at the London School of Economics. From 2014 to 2022 he was a senior editor of The Economist magazine and wrote the "Bello" column on Latin America. From 1999 to 2013 he was the editor of the Americas section of the magazine, responsible for coverage of Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada. He was previously a correspondent in Brazil, Mexico and Central America, and spent most of the 1980s based in Lima covering the Andean Region for The Guardian newspaper and the BBC.

Razia Iqbal

John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor and Lecturer, Princeton University



Razia Iqbal is an anchor of Newshour on the BBC World Service, the current affairs program with 12.5 million listeners in the U.S. and millions more elsewhere. For the last three decades she has reported from around the world, including as a special correspondent for BBC TV. Iqbal has presented the in-depth interview series Witness History, Talking Books and Dream Builders as well as documentaries for both radio and TV. She is a frequent moderator at political and literary events.

Keynote Speaker: President Michelle Bachelet

Former President of Chile

President Michelle Bachelet

Former President of Chile



Ms. Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions, having been the first female president of the country. She also served as Health Minister, as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister. Also, she has performed international leadership in positions such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Director of UN Women. She is recognized as a world champion of human rights, gender issues and international south cooperation.

Luis Carlos Velez Univisión Noticias Anchor



Harvard University.

Velez is a Colombian-American journalist leader. He serves as the director of the news slot at RCN Radio's La FM in Colombia and as anchor and director of the opinion show Linea de Fuego at TelevisaUnivision's VIX's Noticias Univision 24/7 digital channel in Miami. Previously, he worked as an economic journalist and director/presenter at Citytv and Caracol Radio, and as director of Noticias Caracol at Televisión. He has also contributed to international media outlets such as CNN en Español and Telemundo Internacional. Velez holds additional studies from the London School of Economics and is pursuing a Masters in Public Administration in

Panel V: Global Competition in the Region

Ambassador Carolina Barco

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and Former Ambassador to the United States



Barco has had a distinguished career in diplomacy and public policy. She served as Colombia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the United States and to Spain. In addition, she has worked in economic and urban development, conducting research and consulting for organizations such as UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank. Barco holds master's degrees in City Planning from Harvard University and in Business Administration from Instituto de Empresa Business School. She has received numerous honors and decorations from several countries.

Admiral Craig Faller Former Commander of SOUTHCOM



Craig Faller is a retired four star United States Navy Admiral with four decades of global leadership experience. Faller most recently led United States Southern Command where he was responsible for U.S. military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean with the primary objective of forging strong security partnerships. He has served in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific regions both on large staffs and in Command of a United States Navy Carrier Strike Group and two warships. He has extensive Washington, DC experience in the Pentagon and with Congress as the Department of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs (lead representative to Congress on behalf

of the leadership of the Navy).

Brian WinterVice President Council of the Americas



Winter is the editor-in-chief of *Americas Quarterly* and an analyst of Latin American politics, with more than 20 years of experience. He lived in Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico as a correspondent for Reuters before taking on his current role, where he is also the vice president of policy for Americas Society/Council of the Americas. He has been called "the best foreign expert on Brazil of this moment" by GloboNews. Brian is the author of several books including *Why Soccer Matters*, a *New York Times* bestseller he wrote with the Brazilian soccer legend Pelé; *The Accidental President of Brazil* or co-authored with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. He is a

regular contributor to television and radio, the host of the Americas Quarterly Podcast.

Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdes

Ambassador of Chile to the United States and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs



Valdes has held significant positions including Minister of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, and Ambassador of Chile to Spain, Argentina, and the U.S. Additionally, he served as a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of the UN Mission in Haiti, as well as a member of the UN Advisory Board on Mediation. He has coordinated programs for the Latin American Council on International Relations at the ECLAC.

Todd Robinson Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement



Ambassador Robinson is a career diplomat with the rank of Career Minister. Prior to becoming A/S for INL, he served as the Director of the International Student Management Office at the National Defense University. Prior to his assignment at NDU, he served as Senior Advisor for Central America in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. Ambassador Robinson was previously Chargé d'Affaires in Caracas, Venezuela from December 2017 to 2018, when he was expelled by President Maduro. He was previously U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala from 2014 to 2017.

Panel VI: Regional Stability and Migration

Barbara Buckinx

Research Scholar, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Princeton University



Buckinx holds a PhD in Politics from Princeton University and MA and MSc degrees in Psychology and Social and Political Theory from the University of Edinburgh. With a background in political theory, she has held pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships at institutions such as Brown University, Goethe University Frankfurt, and the University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on global governance, migration, and refugees, with publications in various academic journals including Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy and Migration Studies. Additionally, she teaches courses on environment and gender.

Ambassador Martha Barcena

Former Ambassador of Mexico to the United States



Barcena joined the Mexican Foreign Service in 1979, and has been Ambassador to Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Turkey and others. Most significantly, she was the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. (2018-2021). In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bárcena has been Technical Secretary of the III LAC-EU Summit; Adviser to the Undersecretary for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the UN; among other roles. She has combined professional activity with academic work as a professor since 1981 at the Universidad Iberoamericana, teaching subjects of International Organizations and International Negotiations. She is the author of several articles on the

reconceptualization of security, globalization, and the international civil society.

Maria Fernanda Espinosa

Former President of the UN General Assembly and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Defense of Ecuador



María Fernanda has more than 20 years of multilateral experience in international negotiations on peace, security, human rights, sustainable development and multilateral cooperation. She was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on two occasions, Minister of National Defense and Coordinating Minister of Cultural and Natural Heritage. She was also President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, having been the first female Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in New York.

Mark Feierstein

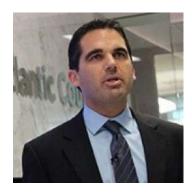
Former National Security Council Western Hemisphere Senior Director



Feierstein served as principal advisor in the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he also acted as deputy administrator and assistant administrator for Latin America, overseeing policy priorities and interagency engagements. Besides, Feierstein held positions such as director for Western Hemisphere affairs on the National Security Council. He also worked at the State Department, focusing on diplomatic and electoral affairs. Mr. Feierstein holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Tufts University and a Master in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Jason Marczak

Vice President and Senior Director, Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, Atlantic Council



With over twenty years of experience in regional economics, and politics, he leads the Center in delivering constructive solutions to advance hemispheric prosperity. Marczak has co-edited a book on the US-Colombia relationship, led initiatives on economic gains at the US-Mexico border, and shaped efforts for post-COVID regional recovery. He established a Caribbean Initiative in 2021 and expanded the Center's scope and scale. Additionally, Marczak is an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, teaching on Central America and immigration policy. Marczak is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign

Relations.

Ambassador Thomas Shannon Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs



Ambassador Shannon has more than three decades of public service. Most recently, Shannon served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the third highest ranking position at the State Department. Holding the personal rank of Career Ambassador, he was the highest ranking member of the United States Foreign Service, the country's professional diplomatic corps. During his tenure as Under Secretary, Ambassador Shannon was in charge of bilateral and multilateral foreign policymaking and implementation, and oversaw diplomatic activity globally and in our missions to international organizations.

Panel VII: Regional Security and Organized Crime

Jacob Shapiro

Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University



Shapiro directs the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, a consortium studying politically motivated violence. He published multiple academic journals and policy articles. He is author of *The Terrorist's Dilemma: Managing Violent Covert Organizations*. He conducted policy evaluations in Afghanistan, Colombia, and India. He received the Karl Deutsch Award from the International Studies Association, given to a scholar younger than 40, or within 10 years of earning a Ph.D., who has made the most significant contribution to international relations studies. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and holds a PhD in Political Sciences from Stanford University.

Brian Nichols

Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs



Prior to serving as A/S for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Nichols served in multiple positions. Among these, stands out serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Peru, leading efforts against illegal mining and supporting trade and investment. He also held positions such as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Colombia. Nichols has received numerous awards during his diplomatic career, including a Presidential Distinguished Service Award and two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards.

Ambassador William Brownfield

Former Assistant Secretary of INL, and Former Ambassador of the U.S. to Colombia, Venezuela and Chile



Brownfield is an illustrious public servant with the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service: Ambassador. Brownfield's last seven years of his career were spent serving as the assistant secretary of state for the bureau of international narcotics and law enforcement affairs. Amb. Brownfield's expertise in the Americas draws from his vast experience in serving as U.S. ambassador to Chile, Venezuela, and Colombia. Also, he was temporary political adviser to SOUTHCOM. He received the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award and the Presidential Performance Award three times each.

Eddy Acevedo

Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President and CEO of the Wilson Center



With over 15 years of experience in government service, Acevedo is a key advisor on national security and foreign policy matters, supporting policy development, external engagement, and internal management. Previously, he held senior roles at the McCain Institute for International Leadership and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where he managed global operations and congressional engagements. Acevedo also served in various capacities on Capitol Hill, overseeing portfolios related to the Western Hemisphere, among others. He holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University and dual Bachelor's degrees in

Psychology and Political Science from Spring Hill College.

Panel VIII: Central America: Challenges and Opportunities

Eduardo Bhatia

John L Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor and Visiting Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, Princeton University



Bhatia is an attorney and advocate with a wealth of experience in fiscal matters and public policy. He has held leadership roles, including President of the Senate of Puerto Rico, where he played a crucial role in advancing renewable energy and education reforms. Bhatia is also known for his international leadership, having served as president of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas. He is a visiting professor at Princeton University and Chairman of the Board of HITN, a prominent Spanish-speaking television station in the US. He is a J.D. from Stanford University.

Rafael Barraza
Former President of El Salvador Central Bank



From 1996 to 2002, Barraza held several roles at the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador, including President. Additionally, he was General Director of the Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios and Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of El Salvador. He represented his country as an Alternate Governor before the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. Since 2010, he has served as the president of Banco Agrícola. He was also a member of the Central American Leadership Initiative sponsored by the Aspen Institute Global Leadership Network Initiative.

Maria Antonieta del Cid
Former President of Guatemala Central Bank



María Antonieta is recognized as a Central American leader on economic affairs. She was Central America 's representative on the board of the International Monetary Fund; she chaired the Bank of Guatemala and the Monetary Board and was Minister of Finance of her country. She served as Executive Director for Central America and Belize at the Inter-American Development Bank and also served as general manager of two private banks. Besides, she has chaired and served on several public and private sector boards.

Ambassador Frank Mora

Ambassador of the United States to the Organization of the American States (OAS)



for his public service.

Mora has held academic and governmental positions, including Professor of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University and Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Western Hemisphere and held teaching positions at the National War College and Rhodes College. Ambassador Mora has extensive experience as a consultant to various organizations, including the Library of Congress and the U.S. State Department. Ambassador Mora holds a Ph.D. in International Affairs from the University of Miami and has received several awards

Panel IX: Latin American Culture

Gabriela Frias CNN - EE Anchor



Gabriela Frías is a Mexican journalist with more than two decades of experience. Frías is currently the anchor of *Panorama Mundial*, the network's stellar news program with the most relevant events in the world. Frías was an international and Latin American financial news anchor on CNN for more than 13 years, interviewing world leaders, reporting on global financial issues, traveling to high-level events, such as the G-20 in Mexico and the World Economic Forum in Davos. She is recognized as a leader in business journalism in Latin America.

Mauro Castillo Artist and Musician



Colombian singer, actor, composer, trombonist and music producer. He has a successful career in the musical and interpretative field in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and other Latin American countries. Winner of 3 prizes of the Festival del Pacifico Petronio Alvarez, one prize Núcleo Urbano. He has become worldwide recognized for his role as *Felix* in Disney Movie *Encanto* and being the first African-American to sing at the White House. He currently collaborates with the LA PUERTA MUSIC Foundation, in the search for new salsa talents and educational material for them.

Keynote Speaker: President Ivan Duque

Former President of Colombia

President Ivan Duque Former President of Colombia



Duque was one of the youngest Presidents in Colombia's history. Is worldwide recognized for leading massive transformations regarding green future and innovation in his country and in Latin America. Also, he served as Senator of Colombia and head of the Culture, Creativity and Solidarity division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He is a graduate of Universidad Sergio Arboleda, with major studies in philosophy and humanities. He is an expert in economic issues, with executive studies at Harvard, and a master's degree from Georgetown, in Public Policy Management, and from American University, in Economic Law.

Razia Iqbal

John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor and Lecturer, Princeton University



Razia Iqbal is an anchor of Newshour on the BBC World Service, the current affairs program with 12.5 million listeners in the U.S. and millions more elsewhere. For the last three decades she has reported from around the world, including as a special correspondent for BBC TV. Iqbal has presented the in-depth interview series Witness History, Talking Books and Dream Builders as well as documentaries for both radio and TV. She is a frequent moderator at political and literary events.