

MILITARIZING LATIN AMERICA

PANEL DISCUSSION

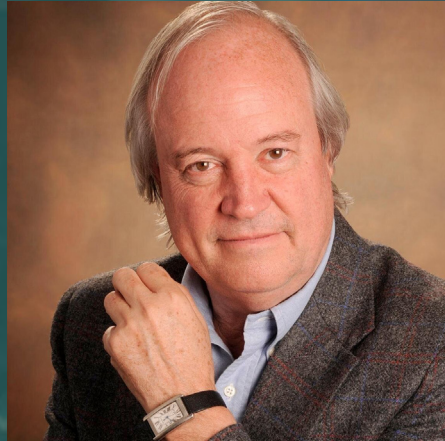
THURSDAY, MARCH 14 | 4:30–6:00 PM
CRAIG AUDITORIUM, SCIENCE CENTER



MILITARIZATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES LATIN AMERICA

There is a new trend in Latin America to increase military participation in civilian areas. The talk will include four main points: 1) Changes in the role of the military in different Latin American sub-regions (Southern Cone, Andean Region and Central America); 2) Main scenarios of violent conflict: domestic (drug traffic, organized crime and its transnational scope, paramilitary groups, political and social unrest) and external (growing tensions between Venezuela and its neighbors); 3) Trend towards militarization of public security; 4) The Venezuelan case: A new type of military regime?

MS. FRANCINE JÁCOME is the Executive Director of the Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies (INVESP). She has served as a consultant for OAS, UNITAR, UNESCO, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada), Open Society Institute (OSI), Canadian Agency for International Development, European Union and Partners Global.



A CHINESE GARDEN IN AMERICA'S BACKYARD? LATIN AMERICA AMIDST THE STIRRINGS OF A NEW COLD WAR

Perhaps the most important change in Latin America's international relations in its two centuries of independent history has taken place in the past two decades. From its traditional diplomatic and commercial orientation towards North America and Western Europe, the region has switched more toward Asia, especially China. Trade between China and Latin America and the Caribbean increased 26 times between 2000 and 2013. For Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, China is their first trading partner. Yet, as an incipient trade war between the United States and China escalates, the region is caught between a rock and a hard place.

DR. JORGE HEINE was Chile's Ambassador to China, India, and South Africa, and a former Cabinet minister in the Chilean government. He is currently a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C. He published fifteen books and some 100 journal articles, and wrote for *New York Times* & *Washington Post*.



THE ROLE OF GANGS AND REPRESSIVE SECURITY POLICIES IN FORCED MIGRATION

Social and criminal violence in northern Central America is driven, to an important extent, by street gangs, particularly MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang. These groups originated in marginalized immigrant neighborhoods in United States and developed in El Salvador owing to mass deportations and zero tolerance policies. After a failed government-sponsored gang truce and limited social prevention, the country has returned to gang suppression and extrajudicial executions. Homicide rates are declining, but insecurity and the threat of violence remain factors for forced migration.

DR. SONJA WOLF is a CONACYT Research Fellow at the Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE) in Mexico. Author of *Mano Dura: The Politics of Gang Control in El Salvador*. Her research focuses on violence, street gangs, migration, and security policies, particularly in Central America.