*4th Annual University of Kentucky Latin American,*

*Caribbean, and Latino Studies Symposium:*

**Populist Authoritarianism in Comparative and Historical Perspective**

October 5th, 2018

Young Library Auditorium

Organizing Committee:

Carlos De la Torre (Sociology)

Dierdra Reber (Hispanic Studies)

Scott Hutson (Anthropology)

The global rise of populism with Brexit and the election of Donald Trump brought populism from the margins and the global south to the global north. Populists are in power not only in unconsolidated and fragile democracies in Latin America, but in Hungary, Poland, Greece, and the U.S. As the world region where populists got to power since the 1940s, Latin America offers lessons to activists, scholars, and politicians of how populists undermined democracy from within. Promising to give power back to the people, populists in power followed a playbook of concentration of power in the executive, war against the media, regulation of civil society, and the transformation of democratic adversaries into enemies. In nations as diverse as Venezuela, Hungary, Ecuador, and Bolivia populist displaced democracy and created hybrid regimes.

**Keynote Speaker:**

[Dr. Kurt Weyland](https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/government/faculty/weylandk), Professor of Government and Mike Hogg Professor in Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

Talk title: “When Democracy TRUMPS Populism: European and Latin American Lessons for the United States”

Dr. Weyland has published many articles and book chapters on democratization, neoliberalism, populism, and social policy in Latin America. His current book projects analyze the wave of reactionary rule during the interwar years and the rash of military coups in Latin America during the 1960s and 1970s. His previous books include *Democracy without Equity: Failures of Reform in Brazil* (Pittsburgh, 1996); *The Politics of Market Reform in Fragile Democracies* (Princeton, 2002); *Bounded Rationality and Policy Diffusion: Social Sector Reform in Latin America* (Princeton, 2007); *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings*, co-edited with Raúl Madrid and Wendy Hunter (Cambridge, 2010); and *Making Waves: Democratic Contention in Europe and Latin American since the Revolutions of 1848* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford (1991).

**Round Table:**

[Dr. Federico Finchelstein](https://www.newschool.edu/nssr/faculty/federico-finchelstein/), Professor of History at the New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College in New York City.

Talk title: “Populism in Latin American History"

Dr. Finchelstein has published more than fifty academic articles and reviews on Fascism, Latin American Populism, the relationship between history and political theory, the Cold War, Genocide and Antisemitism in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian publications, both in collective books and specialized peer review journals in the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Israel, Brazil, and Argentina. He is the author of several books, including *From Fascism to Populism in History*(University of California Press, 2017), which focuses on the historical and theoretical connections between these two movements;*The Ideological Origins of the Dirty War (*Oxford University Press, 2014), whichanalyzes the connections between fascism and the Holocaust, antisemitism, and the military junta's practices of torture and state violence; *and Transatlantic Fascism (*Duke University Press, *2010)*. He contributes to major American, European, and Latin American media, including the *New York Times*, The *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Mediapart, Politico, Clarin*, *Nexos*, and *Folha de Sao Paulo*.

[Dr. Silvia Pedraza](https://lsa.umich.edu/soc/people/faculty/spedraza), Professor of Sociology and American Culture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Title: “"Two Revolutions Compared: Cuba and Venezuela."

Dr. Pedraza’s work seeks to understand the causes and consequences of immigration as a historical process that forms and transforms persons and nations. She also researches the way social revolutions create ruptures with the past and make possible the creation of a different present. She has received various grants from the National Science Foundation as well as the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She is the author of three books and numerous articles. A few of her publications include: *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus*(Cambridge University Press, 2007), and “Women and Migration: the Social Consequences of Gender,” *Annual Review of Sociology*(1991). She is currently working on a book on *Cuba and Venezuela: Revolution and Reform*together with Professor Carlos A. Romero, from the Universidad Central de Venezuela. She holds a Ph. D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago.

[Dr. Phillip Penix-Tadsen](http://www.dllc.udel.edu/staff-members/phillip-penix-tadsen-2/), Associate professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, University of Delaware.

Dr. Penix-Tadsen specializes in Latin American cultural studies, focusing on the intersections between politics, economics, new media, and visual culture in the region today. He has published work in peer-reviewed journals including *Latin American Research Review and Ciberletras*. Penix-Tadsen is the author of [*Cultural Code: Video Games and Latin America*](http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2014/feb/udlaps-scholar-021714.html) (MIT, 2016), which offers the first synthetic theorization of the relationship between video games and culture through case studies that show the myriad ways video games use Latin America, as well as how Latin America uses video games. Penix-Tadsen teaches courses on contemporary Latin American cultural studies including *New Media and New Directions in Latin America*; *Media-Savvy Populism from Che to Chávez*; *Drug Culture in Latin America*; *Graphic Transgressions: Breakthrough Movements in Latin American Visual Arts and Culture*; and *Resurrecting Mexico’s Dead*.

**Graduate Student Presentations**

**Kevin Alejandrez** (Sociology): “Differences among Latinos in Oregon Agriculture—Positioning in the Fields.”

**Shayna Lindquist** (Anthropology): “Mesoamerican Strategies of Economic Positioning: A Perspective from the Classic Period Southern Gulf coast of Mexico.”

**Jessica Linz** (Geography): “Disturbing the Beast: The Affective Life of Gentrification after the Mexico City Earthquake.”

**Gabriela Montero Mejía** (Anthropology): “Mapping Time and Space: Contextualizing the Archaeological Site of Mazapa, Veracruz, Mexico.”

**Gregory Saxton** (Political Science): “Inequality, Fairness, Perceptions and Political Support in the Americas.”

**Format and Schedule:**

10:00-10:15 Introduction

10:15-11:45 Keynote speaker and Q & A

11:45-12:45 Lunch

12:45-3:00 Round table with panelists.

3:00-3:15 break

3:15-5:00 Graduate Student panel and Q & A

5:00 Closing.