Professor Francisco E. González
Associate Professor

We resumed more day-to-day in-person activities during the 2022-2023 academic year. The physical reintegration of our community filled us with energy and greater appreciation for what it means to work and learn together.

All credit goes to our fantastic student body, and this year’s Latin America club, led by Viviana Núñez, Martín Cassinelli, Lisseth Díaz, Yonatan Litwin, and Camille Farradas. Our student club organized some of the most notable events this year, like a conversation with Venezuelan opposition leader and SAIS student David Smolansky, and a conversation with former president of Peru, Francisco Sagasti. We hosted three events on Brazil’s first and second round general elections of 2022, and further reflections following the January 8, 2023 protests and mass invasion of the country’s government buildings in Brasilia. We are promoting more hemispheric and cross-regional activities by working with other SAIS colleagues and groups like this year’s ‘Conflict in Multiracial Democracies: South Africa, the United States and Brazil’ with Profs. Filipe Campante, Brian Levy and Peter Lewis. A special thank you to Prof. Jim Markwardt, whose energy and commitment through his great teaching and organizational capacity have strengthened the Americas program as demonstrated by the research trip he led to Colombia with 16 students. Student demand to study Latin America at SAIS continues to grow, and we have our course offerings and activities. We will continue making our community proud thanks to our vibrant Latinx spirit which keeps us together seeking to better understand and improve political, economic, and social conditions throughout Latin America.

Highlighted Faculty & Staff
Christopher Sands, Adjunct Lecturer and Director of the Center for Canadian Studies

Dr. Sands is Director of the Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and staff director for the Wilson Task Force on Public Health and the U.S.-Canadian Border. He earned a B.A. in Political science from Macalester College, and his M.A. in international economics (1994) and Ph.D. in international relations and Canadian Studies (2009) from Johns Hopkins SAIS.

Anne McKenzie, Global Careers Associate Director

Anne McKenzie is Associate Director for SAIS Global Careers. Anne’s portfolio includes the federal government, think tanks, trade and Latin America. Anne continues to work with students to identify internship and employment opportunities in Latin America.

Dr. Albert “Jim” Markwardt, Adjunct Lecturer

Dr. Markwardt is an adjunct lecturer and previously served for over 29 years in the U.S. Army. Jim earned a Doctor in International Affairs and a Master’s in International Public Policy at Johns Hopkins SAIS and a BA in International Business from Florida International University.

Americas Focus Area Courses

**Fall 2022**
- Financial Crises and Policy Dilemmas in Emerging Markets and Latin America
- Middle Power Diplomacy
- Understanding Modern Latin American Politics
- Urban Economics in Emerging Markets: Sustainability, Health and Infrastructure
- Contemporary Issues of Inter-American Relations
- Economic Development in Latin America

**Spring 2023**
- International Crises: US & Third World
- International Political Economy of Emerging Markets
- Energy in the Americas, Conflict Cooperation and Future Prospects
- Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean: New Challenges Amidst Growing Insecurity
- Politics of North American Economic Integration
- Security, Conflict, and Migration in Latin America
- Latin American Capstone Research Seminar

Summer 2023 Internships in Latin America

- Colombia Risk Analysis, Colombia
- Cefeidas Group, Argentina
- United Nations Refugee Agency, Chile
- CoSchool, EdTech, Colombia
- InSight Crime, Colombia
- Corporación Interamericana para el Financiamiento de Infraestructura, Panama
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile
2022-2023 Americas Focus Area Academic Events

October 6 - Brazil Election Forum and Americas Welcome Reception
Panel discussion with Monica De Bolle, Filipe Campante, Christopher Garman, and Clifford Young on the Brazilian elections.

November 8 - Discussion on the State of Human Rights in Venezuela
Discussion with Venezuelan member of the National Assembly, Miguel Pizzarro.

November 17 - The Possibility of Further North American Integration and Its Implications with Professor Gomez-Camacho
Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho, SAIS professor and former Mexican Ambassador to Canada, discussed the state of North American integration and the strategic implications of future shifts in the geopolitical landscape.

February 21 - The State of Democracy in Brazil, 2023
Follow-up panel discussion regarding the domestic unrest following the Brazil general elections.

March 15 - Understanding Peru’s Political Crisis: A Conversation with Francisco Sagasti
The Latin American Studies Club hosted Francisco Sagasti, former President of Peru, to discuss the current political crisis in Peru.

March 16 - Venezuela in the World with David Smolansky
David Smolansky, MIPP student and former mayor of El Hatillo municipality in Caracas, shared his thoughts on the situation in Venezuela.

April 18 - The Mexican Electoral Reform
Lila Abed, Deputy Director of the Mexico Institute of the Wilson Center, discussed the proposed reforms to the Mexican electoral system.

5th Annual Forum on Security Challenges in Latin America

On March 9th, SAIS co-hosted the 5th Annual Forum on Security Challenges in Latin America with the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric and Defense Studies. This year’s forum focused on contemporary and evolving threats in defense and security in the Americas, with special attention to civil-military relations, the militarization of internal security, climate change, and cybersecurity.
Spring 2023 Latin America Research Seminar and Study Trip to Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia

During spring break, a group of 16 students took part in a trip to Colombia as part of the Latin America Research Capstone, where they were able to have an in-depth look at Colombia's contemporary issues such as migration, economic development, climate, internal security, and the peace process.

At the beginning of the semester, each student chose their research topic, and under the guidance of Prof. Jim Markwardt the students scheduled meetings with representatives from the academic, diplomatic, public sector and private sector in to enhance their understanding of their topics.

In Bogota, Markwardt and the students met with Finance Minister Jose Antonio Ocampo who offered his reflections on Colombia’s energy transition and the economic impact of migration. Students also spoke with U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela James Story who shared candid reflections about migration and conflict.

In Medellín, students met with delegations from Ruta N, a public-private partnership that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, and Empresas Publicas de Medellín, a state-owned utilities company. These meetings allowed students to dig deeper into the climate-related challenges Colombia is facing and the creative ways these organizations are addressing them.

The SAIS delegation was also welcomed by SAIS alums in Bogota, including Francisco J. Coy, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Sergio Guzman, CEO of Colombia Risk Analysis.

“This first of its kind research seminar focused on Latin America gave students an opportunity to enhance their research skills, deepen their knowledge of Colombia, and build camaraderie amongst each other” - Professor Markwardt
Global Careers

December 2 - Inter-American Development Bank In-Person Trek
SAIS Global Careers organized an in-person career trek to the headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington. Participants listened to a comprehensive overview of the IDB Group, learned about career entry points, and heard from alumna Jimena Serrano on how she was able to leverage her graduate degree for her current IDB Invest role.

February 6 - Summer 2023 Internships in Latin America Information Session
Global Careers hosted shared opportunities for students interested in completing 2023 Summer Internships in Latin America.

Highlighted Faculty & Staff

Ambassador Juan José Gómez-Camacho, Senior Fellow
Amb. Gómez-Camacho is a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute, as well as a member of the teaching faculty of SAIS. He is regarded as one of the most influential, experienced Mexican diplomats, and is widely recognized for his strong leadership and for his analytical and negotiation skills.

Jacqueline Mazza, Senior Adjunct Professor
Dr. Mazza is a Senior Adjunct Professor at SAIS. Previously she was Principal Labor Markets Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank. Mazza has over 30 years of experience in labor markets, employment and development. She received her PhD and MA from Johns Hopkins SAIS.

Ambassador Arturo Sarukhán, Adjunct Lecturer
Amb. Sarukhan is president of Sarukhan + Associates, LLC, an international strategic consulting firm. Ambassador Sarukhan served as Mexico’s ambassador to the United States from 2007-2013. In addition to earning a master's in U.S. foreign policy from SAIS, Ambassador Sarukhan is also an alum of El Colegio de México.

Social Events

October 2022, Visit to the Mexican Cultural Institute in DC during Hispanic Heritage Month
November 2022, International Dinner at SAIS
February 2023, Red Omnia Happy Hour at Allero
February 2023, Happy Hour and Salsa Class at Cafe Citron

Thank you to everyone who supported the Latin American-focused programming at SAIS during the 2022-2023 Academic Year!

To stay up to date on the next year’s programming be sure to follow the LASP Club on social media and join the WhatsApp.

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