



2015 LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

STUDY OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 & FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015



Dr. Macario Schettino

Friday May 1, 2015

9:30am-10:30am | Obershaw Dining Room

2014. Nueva Ruta (New Route)

We are living in a very changing world, and that anguishes us. That is true for the whole planet, but Mexico has a double source of uncertainty. Mexico is changing the way it took over the 20th century, which didn't work. These two sources of uncertainty, the changing world and the change in direction, are difficult to cope with. However, it seems that Mexico is taking the right road this time...

Macario Schettino is a Chemical Engineer with an MA in Economics, a PhD in Business and ABD in History. He has been a professor, researcher and Dean in the academic arena, an entrepreneur in technology and services, an official and adviser in different levels of government, and a columnist, op-ed writer and director in Media. Currently, he writes a daily column in *El Financiero* entitled *Fuera de la Caja* (Out of the Box), delivers commentaries on radio through MVS, and he participates on television, both in a monthly op-ed in *El Noticiero* with Joaquín López Dóriga and on a weekly analysis round table called *Dinero y Poder* on Chanel 11. He has written twenty books, half of them textbooks for senior High School and College levels, and the other half about Mexico. The most recent is entitled *El Fin de la Confusión* (The end of confusion), published in 2014.



Dr. Robert Kirkland

(Latin American Studies, CSUSB)

Thursday, April 30, 2015

9:00am-10:00am

Obershaw Dining Room

**Central American Gangs:
Changing Structure and Nature**

Dr. Kirkland will discuss the changing roles of Central American gangs within the drug trafficking structures, particularly the Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), operating in the region. This will include the emerging political role of the gangs (MS-13 & Barrio 18), the negotiations between the gangs and Mexican DTOs for joint operational capacity, the interactions between the two sides, and the significant repercussions across the region.



Dr. Xóchitl Chávez

(Anthropology, UCR)

Thursday, April 30, 2015

10:15am-11:15am

Pine Room

**Booming Bandas of Los Angeles: Oaxacan
Women and Youth as New Cultural Bearers
of Philharmonic Brass Bands**

Dr. Chávez explores how indigenous diasporic communities reproduce cultural practices such as the annual La Guelaguetza festival that showcase regional communal dances and musical forms. Focusing on these forms of cultural expression and the transmission of traditions to both adults and youth illuminates the ways in which communities actively claim cultural citizenship on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico border.



Dr. Álvaro Ramírez

(St. Mary's College of CA)

Thursday, April 30, 2015

4:00pm-5:00pm

Pine Room

**Dazed and Confused: Screening out Culture
in Contemporary Mexico**

Many visitors to Mexico nowadays are confounded by the cultural milieu which greets them as they travel through urban areas of the country that manifest a clear proclivity for American cultural products and way of life to the extent that they may ask whether they are in Mexico or the United States. In this talk Dr. Ramírez argues that, culturally speaking, this turn toward the USA is clearly not a new phenomenon; it is a process that has been in progress since the early twentieth century.



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