



MAY 2-3, 2023

MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS | GC BALLROOMS

HOSTED BY

**JACK D. GORDON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY
KIMBERLY GREEN LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CENTER
ADAM SMITH CENTER FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM**

#HSC2023



ABOUT THE HEMISPHERIC SECURITY CONFERENCE

The **Hemispheric Security Conference (HSC)** is an annual conference held at FIU's MMC Campus where experts from academia, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private sectors converge to examine the most pressing security challenges facing the Western Hemisphere. HSC features thought leaders from hemispheric governments, including senior military officials and other leaders from the industry. HSC is led by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, which are both part of Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.



**Jack D. Gordon
Institute for Public Policy**

ABOUT THE JACK D. GORDON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

FIU's **Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy** was founded in 1985 to establish, promote, and advance the study of public policy and national security studies. The institute serves as the forefront of public policy discourse by leading, integrating, and delivering exceptional multidisciplinary education and research while improving the competitiveness and diversity of students and professionals entering the workforce. The institute is centered on four pillars: Academics, Executive Education, Research, and Community Outreach, each serving the mission of shaping public policy and national security solutions in the 21st century.



**Kimberly Green
Latin American and
Caribbean Center**

ABOUT THE KIMBERLY GREEN LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CENTER

The **Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University** was founded in 1979 to promote the study of Latin America and the Caribbean in Florida and throughout the United States. By forging linkages across the Americas through high quality education, LACC's research is aimed at better understanding and addressing the most urgent problems confronting the region. LACC is designated by the US Department of Education, funded by Title VI, as a National Resource Center on Latin America, recognizing it as one of the top Latin American and Caribbean Centers in the country.



**Adam Smith Center
for Economic Freedom**

ABOUT THE ADAM SMITH CENTER FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The **Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom** was founded in 2020 to inform, influence, and inspire current and future leaders to develop and implement innovative, meaningful, and effective policies to advance economic and individual freedom and human prosperity. ASC was established by the Legislature and Governor of Florida to harness the power of rigorous research, excellence in education and mentorship, and effective public outreach to offer a better understanding of the free enterprise system and its impact on individual freedom and human prosperity around the world, with a special emphasis on the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean.



TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

8:00-9:00 AM: **Registration & Breakfast**

9:00-9:05 AM: **Conference Day 1 Welcome**

- Leland Lazarus, Associate Director of the National Security Program, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

9:05-9:15 AM: **Opening Remarks**

- Shlomi Dinar, Interim Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, FIU

9:15-9:45 AM: **Welcome Remarks**

- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Daniel Erikson

9:45-10:15 AM: **Fireside Chat with Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, Former Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs**

- Moderated by Carlos Díaz-Rosillo, Director, Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom, FIU

10:15-10:30 AM: **Networking Break**

10:30-10:45 AM: **Remarks from Congressional Representative Mario Diaz-Balart**

10:45-11:45 AM: **Protecting our People: Achievements in Citizen Security**

- Samantha Chaitram, Fellow, Caribbean Policy Consortium
- Sandro Torres Avelar, Brazil, Secretary of Public Security for the Federal District
- María Paula Romo Rodríguez, former Minister of Government of Ecuador
- Jaqueline Charles, Journalist, the Miami Herald
- Moderated by: Ryan Berg, Director of Americas Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

11:45-12:30 PM: **Lunch**

- 11:45-12:00: **Video Message: General Laura Richardson, Commander, U.S. Southern Command**
- 12:00-12:30: **Lunchtime Chat with VADM Alvin Holsey, Military Deputy Commander, U.S. Southern Command**
- Moderated by: Bruce Vitor, Director of Research & Operations, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

12:30-1:15 PM: **Fireside Chat with NSC Director Juan Gonzalez**

- Moderated by: Brian Fonseca, Director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

1:15-1:30 PM: **Networking Break**

1:30-2:15 PM: **Fireside Chat with USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman**

- Moderated by Pierina Valentina Anton, Payne Fellow

2:15-3:15 PM: **After COP27: Climate Change and Environmental Security | In Partnership with the Perry Center**

- Erin McFee, Visiting Professor, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies
- Tony Long, CEO of Global Fishing Watch
- Wazim Mowla, Associate Director, Caribbean Initiative at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center
- Michele Devlin, Professor of Environmental Security, USAWC
- Moderated by: Tim Padgett, NPR

3:15-3:30 PM: **Networking Break**



TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 CONTINUED

3:30-4:00 PM: Fireside Chat with Ron Johnson, Former. U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador

- Moderated by: Leland Lazarus, Associate Director of the National Security Program, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

4:15-4:30 PM: Networking Break

4:00-5:00 PM: In the Middle: Opportunities and Challenges in the Era of U.S.-China Strategic Competition | Partnered with the Atlantic Council

- Jorge Heine Former Chilean Ambassador to China & Professor at Boston University
- Nicole Wong, Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Panama
- Evan Ellis, Research Professor of Latin American Studies, U.S. Army War College
- Margaret Myers, Director of the Asia & Latin America Program, Inter-American Dialogue
- Colin Thomas-Jensen, USAID NSC Director
- Moderated by: Jason Marczak, Senior Director, Atlantic Council

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

8:30-8:35 AM: Conference Day 2 Welcome

- Leland Lazarus, Associate Director of the National Security Program, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

8:35-8:45 AM: Opening Remarks

- Ana Gonzalez, Deputy Director of the J2 (Intelligence) Directorate, U.S. Southern Command

8:45-9:15 AM: Fireside Chat with Sébastien Carrière, Canadian Ambassador to Haiti

- Moderated by: Anthony Pereira, Director, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, FIU

9:15-10:15 AM: Securing Cyberspace | In Partnership with the Perry Center

- Boris Saavedra, Professor at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies
- Marty Trevino, Senior Technical Advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board
- Louise Marie Hurel, Research Fellow, RUSI
- Kenrick Bagnall, Vice President, Cyber Crime Task Force, Cyber Security Global Alliance
- Moderated by: Randy Pestana, Associate Director for Cybersecurity Policy, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

10:15-10:30 AM: Networking Break

10:30-11:00 AM: Keynote Address

- Mario Montoto, President of Codesur

11:00-12:00 PM: How New Technology is Solving Old Security Challenges | In Partnership with CNAS

- Sam Howell, Research Fellow, Center for New American Security
- Martín Redrado, Secretary of Strategic Affairs, City of Buenos Aires
- Cristobal Ramon, Independent Expert on U.S. and Global Migration
- Charlette Betts, Regional Technology Officer, U.S. Department of State
- Moderated by: Mike Asencio, Program Director for Cybersecurity, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU

12:00-12:15 PM: Closing Remarks

- Leland Lazarus, Associate Director of the National Security Program, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU



Leland Lazarus is the Associate Director of Research at Florida International University's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy. He is the technical expert on China-Latin America relations. Prior to this role, he has served as the Special Assistant and Speechwriter to the Commander of U.S. Southern Command, where he advised the Commander on a broad spectrum of subjects, issues, and policy considerations related to China in Latin America and the Caribbean. He also helped develop SOUTHCOM's counter-PRC strategic messaging and provided focused support with operational and strategic research to the Commander. He has also served as a State Department Foreign Service Officer, as Deputy Public Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean; Consular Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Shenyang, China; Pickering Fellow at U.S. Embassy Beijing; and the China Desk in DC.



Shlomi Dinar is the Interim Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, FIU. His research interests lie at the intersection of international environmental politics, security, negotiation, and the nexus between political demography, technology, and terrorism. In particular, he has published pieces pertaining to the area of conflict and cooperation over transboundary rivers (a field popularly known as 'hydro-politics'). Additionally, he works on the linkages between climate change and international water issues, particularly as such a relationship pertains to the resilience and effectiveness of international river basins and institutions, respectively. He has also served on several collaborative consultancy projects for the World Bank that included team members from the United States, Spain, and Israel.



Daniel P. Erikson is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Western Hemisphere Affairs. He was previously Managing Director at Blue Star Strategies, LLC, where he led the firm's Latin American practice. He was also a Senior Fellow at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement. He has also served in the White House as Special Advisor to the Vice President, where he focused on Western Hemisphere Affairs and covered foreign affairs and national security issues. In addition to his U.S. government experience, he has held senior positions in the private sector, think tanks, and academia. He has been published widely on a range of topics related to international and Latin American and Caribbean affairs and has testified before the U.S. Congress.



Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky served as Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs from 2001 to 2009. Among her primary accomplishments, she established and led the U.S.-India, U.S.-China, and U.S.-Brazil Global Issues Fora, which advanced crucial work and international cooperation, and served as head of delegation and lead negotiator on U.S. climate change policy. During her more than 25 years in national security affairs, she has held many Senate-confirmed and senior level positions in the U.S. Government including Director of European and Soviet Affairs at the National Security Council. She is a foreign policy expert specializing in national security affairs. She is a Senior Fellow in the Future of Diplomacy Project at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and is Vice Chair of the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council.



Carlos Díaz-Rosillo is the Founding Director of the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom. He is an accomplished educator, administrator, political and policy entrepreneur and strategist, public communicator, and former senior government official. His areas of expertise include presidential power, policymaking and policy implementation, and national security policy. He has worked at the highest levels of the United States government, serving as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Policy and Interagency Coordination at the White House, Senior Deputy Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. He also served as a senior member of the 2016-2017 presidential transition.



Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart is currently fulfilling his 11th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Florida's 26th congressional district. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and is the Chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) Subcommittee, in addition to serving on the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) and Defense Subcommittees. He passionately serves his constituents, acting tirelessly in defense of individual rights and liberties, promoting economic prosperity, and supporting a robust national defense. He is well-known for his advocacy of human rights and democracy around the world, as well as for his staunch support of our global allies. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, making him the Dean of the Florida Delegation and Deputy Whip in Congress.



Samantha Chaitram is a Fellow with the Caribbean Policy Consortium, Research Manager at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies. She is also an External Consultant with the Migration Unit, Inter-American Development Bank. She is the author of *American Foreign Policy in the English-speaking Caribbean: From the Eighteenth to the Twenty-first Century*. She is both a Fulbright alumna and an alumna of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program on U.S. Foreign Policy. She has taught International Trade at the Institute of International Relations, the University of the West Indies and at the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago. Her research interests include U.S. foreign policy, Venezuelan migration and police reform.



Sandro Torres Avelar is the former Federal Police Chief, having been appointed in 1999. He has held the positions of director of the Federal Penitentiary System at the Ministry of Justice; Delegate for combating organized crime at the Federal Police Superintendence in the Federal District; general coordinator of Recruitment and Selection at the National Police Academy; and a member of the Commission for the Reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure in the Federal Senate. He has also served as a professor of human rights at the National Academy of Federal Police, and President of the Federal Police Foundation. In April 2006, he was elected president of the National Association of Federal Police Delegates (ADPF) for two terms and ended his term in April 2010. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Brasília.



María Paula Romo Rodríguez is a former Minister of Government of Ecuador, 2018-2020. She was a member of the Constituent Assembly that crafted Ecuador's current Constitution between 2007 and 2008. She later won a seat at the National Assembly of Ecuador for the period of 2009–2013. She is an Ecuadorian lawyer with master's degree in government and public administration. She has also served as a Dean of Jurisprudence and Social Sciences of the International University of Ecuador.



Jacqueline Charles is a Foreign Correspondent for the Miami Herald. A Pulitzer Prize finalist and Emmy Award winner, she is responsible for reporting on Haiti and the English-speaking Caribbean. She began her journalism career at the Herald as a 14-year-old high school intern and was hired upon graduation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As the Herald's Haiti correspondent, Jacqueline was again on the front lines for the (second) return of Aristide, and was the first journalist to inform readers of his arrival to the island-nation, just days before Haiti's historic 2011 presidential runoff. While best known for her consistent and prolific coverage of Haiti, Jacqueline also made her mark as a local Herald reporter covering Miami's impoverished communities, Broward County schools and government, the Florida Legislature, immigration and social services.



Ryan Berg is Director of the Americas Program and head of the Future of Venezuela Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is also an adjunct professor at the Catholic University of America and visiting research fellow at the University of Oxford's Changing Character of War Programme. His research focuses on U.S.-Latin America relations, authoritarian regimes, armed conflict, strategic competition, and trade and development issues, as well as Latin America's criminal groups and the region's governance and security challenges. Previously, he was a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he helped lead its Latin America Studies Program. He has served as a research consultant to the World Bank, a Fulbright scholar in Brazil, and a visiting doctoral fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Switzerland.



General Laura J. Richardson is the Commander of U.S. Southern Command. Over her career she has commanded from the Company to Theater Army level. Prior to serving as Commander of SOUTHCOM, she served as the Commanding General of U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston. Other assignments as a General Officer include Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, Chief of Army Legislative Liaison to the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C., Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications at Headquarters International Security Assistance Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Kabul, Afghanistan, Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command at Fort Hood.



Vice Admiral Alvin Holsey is the Military Deputy Commander of U.S. Southern Command. At sea, he deployed with USS Jesse L. Brown, USS Nicholson, USS Vreeland, USS Vella Gulf, USS Gettysburg, and USS Simpson, flying both the SH-2F Seasprite and SH-60B Seahawk helicopters. He commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Three Seven and the Navy's first hybrid electric propulsion warship, USS Makin Island. As a flag officer, he served as commander Carrier Strike Group One embarked aboard USS Carl Vinson, and as the inaugural commander of the International Maritime Security Construct / Coalition Task Force Sentinel rapidly setting up an expeditionary headquarters to ensure freedom of navigation, international law, free flow of commerce and stability of maritime commons throughout the Middle East.



Bruce Vitor is the Director of Research & Operations at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy. He provides leadership in National Security and Strategy Development with a wide variety of U.S. and international partners. Additionally, he leads the effort for the Open Source Research Initiative and other areas of research innovation and facilitates collaboration opportunities with intergovernmental and private industry partners. He retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army after 27 years of service in multiple assignments throughout the world as an Infantry Officer and a strategic planner. He has an extensive understanding of U.S. foreign policy, defense strategy, and economics in Asia, the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Latin America.



Juan S. Gonzalez is Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere. He has a plethora of experience in various capacities of government, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2016-2017, Special Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden from 2013-2015, National Security Council Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2011-2013, and in the Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, including as Chief of Staff to Assistant Secretary of State Arturo Valenzuela. He also has time in academia and the private sector, serving as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service, and as Associate Vice President of the Cohen Group.



Brian Fonseca is Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs. He serves as the Institute's technical expert for national security and foreign policy. His analysis has been featured in local and national media, including ABC, BBC, Bloomberg, Fox News, MSNBC, and the Miami Herald. He also serves as WSVN-Fox 7's on-air political expert. He joined the Gordon Institute in 2015 after serving as director of operations at FIU's Applied Research Center, where he led the center's expansion into national security and cybersecurity research initiatives. Prior, he served as the senior research manager for socio-cultural analysis at U.S. Southern Command. From 1997 to 2004, he served in the United States Marine Corps and facilitated the training of foreign military forces in both hostile theaters and during peacetime operations.



Ambassador Isobel Coleman is the Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming at the United States Agency for International Development. She is responsible for program and policy oversight, including of the Agency's Regional and Pillar Bureaus. As Deputy Administrator, she guides USAID's crisis response, leads its work in countering the influence of China and Russia, and supports efforts to address the root causes of irregular migration. She also is responsible for overseeing Agency efforts to prevent famine and future pandemics; strengthen education, health, democracy, and economic growth; and improve responses to climate change. She is a foreign policy and global development expert with more than 25 years of experience working in government, the private sector, and non-profits. She served on the Biden Transition Team, leading the review of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.



Pierina Valentina Anton Lopez is a 2021 Payne Fellow at Georgetown University, Walsh School of Foreign Service. She was born in La Guaira, Venezuela and was raised in Kissimmee, Florida. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida International University (FIU) with a degree in International Relations and Economics, and certificates in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Human Rights and Political Transitions. She currently works as a finance and administrative assistant at the United States Institute of Peace. She also interns with USAID's Bureau for Africa, in the Education and Youth Division. Prior to these roles, she worked with the International Rescue Committee in Miami, Florida where she helped connect youth fleeing conflict to social services and community resources. While a student at FIU, she travelled to Cambodia where she taught English at a local teacher training college.



Erin McFee is a Visiting Professor at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. She is also a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow at the Latin America and Caribbean Centre in the London School of Economics; a Scholar in Residence at the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution; Deputy Director for the Irregular Warfare Initiative Fellows Program; and the Lead Researcher for the Office for Military Affiliated Communities at The University of Chicago. Her work contributes to the fields of international relations, peace and conflict, security, and global development studies. Recently, she has completed a year-long study on the Climate Change, Conflict, and Migration Nexus in Libya and Sudan. Her UKRI-funded project, "Trust after Betrayal" examines interpersonal trust-building between formerly armed actors and their receiving communities in seven different countries.



Tony Long is the CEO of Global Fishing Watch. Prior, he worked at the Pew Charitable Trusts where he directed Pew's End Illegal Fishing Program and played a key role in the development of the Eyes on the Seas project. He has a strong background in non-profit program development and fundraising and a deep understanding of vessel tracking, IUU, and related technologies. Prior to joining Pew, he was a commander in the Royal British Navy where he spent 27 years and served on the First Sea Lord's strategy team, providing executive and ministerial-level defense planning and policy support to the head of the Navy. He also acted as the High North (Arctic) lead adviser, responsible for researching and understanding maritime security issues that arise from environmental changes in the Arctic region.



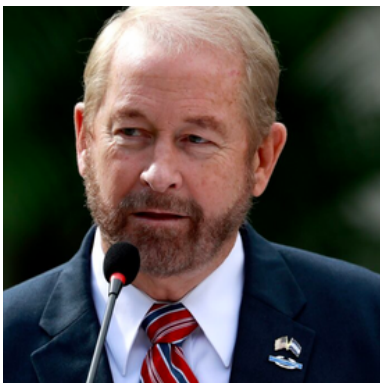
Wazim Mowla is the Associate Director of the Caribbean Initiative at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. He leads the development and execution of the initiative's programming, including the Financial Inclusion Task Force, the US-Caribbean Consultative Group, the PACC 2030 Working Group, and the Caribbean Energy Working Group. Since joining the Council, Mowla has co-authored major publications on the strategic importance of sending US COVID-19 vaccines to the Caribbean, strategies to address financial de-risking, and how the United States can advance new policies to support climate and energy resilience. As part of his work on the Caribbean, Mowla was called to provide Congressional testimony to the US House Financial Services Committee on financial de-risking.



Michele Devlin is Professor of Environmental Security at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Professor of Arctic Health and Human Security with the National Science Foundation's UNI ARCTICenter. She recently returned from Antarctica, where she used her personal vacation time and money to travel and better understand the Antarctic region. Her primary specialty areas include the circumpolar human terrain of the North, environmental migrants, civil-military response to climate disasters, indigenous populations, and cross-cultural engagement with diverse and under-served populations. Prior to joining the US Army War College, she was Professor of Global Health at the University of Northern Iowa for 27 years. She has 25 years of experience providing technical assistance on cross-cultural issues to military, first responders, public health professionals, and emergency managers.



Tim Padgett is the Americas editor for Miami NPR affiliate WLRN, covering Latin America, the Caribbean and their key relationship with South Florida. He has reported on Latin America for more than 30 years — including for Newsweek as its Mexico City bureau chief and for Time as its Latin America and Miami bureau chief — from the end of Central America's civil wars to the normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations and has interviewed more than 20 heads of state. In 2005, he received Columbia University's Maria Moors Cabot Prize for his body of work in Latin America. In 2016 he won a national Edward R. Murrow award for the radio series "The Migration Maze," about the brutal causes of — and potential solutions to — Central American migration.



Ambassador Ronald Johnson is the former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador. He is a Senior Fellow with at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy. He has served the United States government for over four decades, first as an officer in the U.S. Army, and then as a member of the intelligence community. He has served as Special Advisor to the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, managing collaboration between the Command and the Intelligence Community, the State Department, the CDC, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, USAID and others. He had substantive engagement on a range of regional issues including refugees, counter-narcotics, counter terrorism, human rights and tropical virus disease control. He has extensive regional experience in Latin America, and a keen understanding of U.S. policy priorities.



Ambassador Jorge Heine is a Research Professor at The Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. He is a lawyer, International Relations scholar and diplomat. Prior to joining the Pardee School he was a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. He has served as ambassador of Chile to China (2014-2017), to India (2003-2007) and to South Africa (1994-1999), and as a Cabinet Minister in the Chilean Government. A past Vice-President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), he was CIGI Professor of Global Governance at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University, from 2007 to 2017, and a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).



Nicole Wong is the CEO and Founder of WG Consulting, focused on reducing the cultural gap between Asia and Latin America and thus promoting more efficient business between both parties. She was the Deputy Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama from 2016 to 2019. She is a lawyer, and a specialist in diplomacy and foreign policy affairs. She played a fundamental role in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Panama, having carried out negotiations with the Chinese government from the beginning and reaching a successful consensus in June 2017. She had a relevant role in the articulation of a new policy of active approach of Panama with Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, promoting the opening of new Panamanian embassies in Jordan, China, Australia, and Ethiopia.



Evan Ellis is a Research Professor of Latin American Studies at the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, with a focus on the region's relationships with China and other non-Western Hemisphere actors, as well as transnational organized crime and populism in the region. He has published over 300 works, including books on China in Latin America, and Transnational Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean. He previously served on the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff (S/P) with responsibility for Latin America and the Caribbean (WHA), as well as International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) issues. He has been awarded the Order of Military Merit José María Córdova by the Colombian government for his scholarship on security issues in the region.



Margaret Myers is the Director of the Asia & Latin America Program at the Inter-American Dialogue. She established the Dialogue's China and Latin America Working Group in 2011 to examine China's growing presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Myers also developed the China-Latin America Finance Database, the only publicly available source of empirical data on Chinese state lending in Latin America, in cooperation with Global China Initiative at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center. In addition to maintaining the Dialogue's China and Latin America and 美洲对话 blogs, Myers has published numerous articles on Chinese leadership dynamics, international capital flows, Chinese agricultural policy, and Asia-Latin America relations, among other topics.



Colin Thomas-Jensen (he/him) is the National Security Director at USAID, where he advises the Administrator on national security issues. Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, he was a Senior Expert for Peace Processes at the United States Institute of Peace and the Senior Advisor for Africa at WestExec Advisors. From 2013 to 2017, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as Deputy Director of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations' Washington, D.C. office. From 2010 to 2012, he worked at the U.S. Department of State as the Special Advisor to the U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. He has also served as a humanitarian responder in Darfur, Sudan, and Haiti. He has held senior research and policy positions with the Center for American Progress, and the International Crisis Group.



Jason Marczak is Senior Director of the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. He joined the Council in 2013 to launch the center and set the strategic direction for its work. He has over twenty years of expertise in regional economics, politics, and development, working with high-level policymakers and private-sector executives to shape public policy. Under his leadership, the Latin America Center delivers constructive, results-oriented solutions to advance hemispheric prosperity and is a regular venue for heads of state, Cabinet-level officials, and other public and private sector leaders on regional priorities. He recently oversaw development of a campaign focused on a reconstruction of Venezuela's democratic institutions and has shaped efforts to map a post-COVID regional recovery. He prior served as Director of Policy at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas.



Ana Gonzalez serves as Deputy Director of Intelligence at the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). In this capacity, she supports the Director of Intelligence (J2) by providing leadership and oversight over the full range of intelligence activities required to advance SOUTHCOM's Campaign Plan objectives. Prior to this position, Ms. Gonzalez was the Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst for Latin America and the Caribbean at SOUTHCOM. In this position, she oversaw all-source analysis and production, and served as the Commander's principal analytic advisor on regional developments and defense intelligence topics. Ms. Gonzalez has also held a variety of analytic leadership positions across the Intelligence Community, providing analytic support to senior-most U.S. policymakers, warfighters, law enforcement officers, and operators.



Ambassador Sébastien Carrière is the Ambassador of Canada to Haiti. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2000, after an internship at the Canadian Embassy to China. At Headquarters, he has been deputy director of Canadian intergovernmental relations, of strategic planning and risk management, and of bilateral relations with Haiti. He has also been director of relations with the Maghreb, trade with the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as non-proliferation, disarmament, and space. Overseas, he served in Dakar as political counsellor (2005 to 2008) and in Rabat as Chargé d'affaires a.i. (2018). He holds a BA in Political Science from Laval University; a MA in Political Science from Laval University; and an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from Harvard University.



Anthony Pereira is the Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University. From 2010 to 2020 he was the founding director of the Brazil Institute at King's College London. His research interests include authoritarianism and democracy, human rights, public security policy, environmental issues, and international relations in Latin America and the Caribbean. He has held positions at the New School for Social Research, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Tulane University, and the University of East Anglia, including being a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco and at the Institute of International Relations at the University of São Paulo in Brazil.



Boris Saavedra is a Professor at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. He has more than 30 years of his professional life in academic activities, both in Venezuela and the United States. Prior, he was the Chief of Academics at the Inter-American Defense College (1996-1998). A retired Venezuelan Air Force General Officer, he has served in all operational positions in that service. His duties have ranged from flight instructor and professor to Director of the Armed Forces Basic School and Commander of the Air Defense Command in Venezuela. He specializes in Peace, and International Security, civil-military relations in Latin America, public and private security, transnational crime, terrorism, and strategic planning and military capacity, and new emerging digital technology in cybersecurity and robotics.



Marty Trevino is the Senior Technical Advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board, advising the governments and military organizations of 27 nations of the Americas on advanced concepts in Cyber Security. He is a Technology Executive and Decision-Scientist working to alter the sensory experience of next-generation analytics in cyber risk. Previously he served as a US Intelligence Officer and Senior Technical Director at the National Security Agency (NSA). He is a visiting professor at the National Defense University in Washington DC, a frequent speaker at the Inter-American Defense College, and a strategic consultant for firms.



Louise Marie Hurel is a Research Fellow in the Cyber team at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). Her research interests include incident response, cyber capacity building, cyber diplomacy and non-governmental actors' engagement in cyber security. She led Igarapé Institute's Digital Security Programme, coordinating multiple efforts to connect national, regional and international cyber policy discussions, conducting international cyber advocacy in multilateral (UN, OAS) and multi-stakeholder bodies, hosted and moderated forums for cross-sector trust-building at the national level in politically sensitive environments and managed a portfolio of projects that covered themes ranging from incidents against electoral processes, implementation of surveillance technologies for public security, IoT, cyber capacity building, cybercrime and data protection.



Kenrick Bagnall is Vice President of the Cyber Crime Task Force at the Cyber Security Global Alliance. He is also a Detective Constable with the Toronto Police Service. Prior to joining the Toronto Police Service Kenrick spent twenty years working in the Information Technology industry primarily in the financial services sector. During this time, Kenrick spent twelve years working in Bermuda where he was a Senior Network Analyst for the Bank of Butterfield, then an IT Manager for Flag Telecom and then as Senior Vice President of Information Technology for CAPITAL G Bank (now Clarien Bank) before returning to Canada in 2005. Cyber Centre (C3) section of Intelligence Services where he currently serves as a Senior Cybercrime Investigator, and also instructs at the Toronto Police College on the Internet Facilitated Investigations course.



Randy Pestana is the Associate Director for Cybersecurity Policy at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the Director of Education and Training at Cybersecurity@FIU. In these roles, he is responsible for managing the institutes cyber-related partnerships to include U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Labor, State, and Veterans Affairs, the Organization of American States (OAS), and numerous industry partners across the cybersecurity community. His technical specialization is in International Relations with focuses on U.S. foreign policy, security studies, and cybersecurity. Most of his work has been linked to cybersecurity education, training, and workforce development, as well as international security threats facing the United States and its partners and allies.



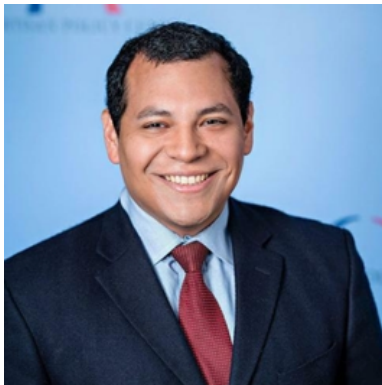
Mario Montoto is the President of Codesur, an Argentine company providing products and services to the Argentinian military and other clients, with the Global View division supplying surveillance cameras to Buenos Aires and other municipalities. He also serves as President of Taeda Foundation, an Argentine publishing house hosting events and seminars on strategic global issues such as natural resources, technology, and sustainable development, which has also published a monthly magazine on issues of Latin American interest related to regional growth, the environment, energy, defense, public security, science and technology. He also serves as the President of the Argentine-Israeli Chamber of Commerce.



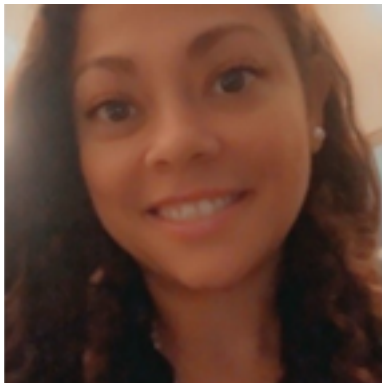
Sam Howell is a Research Assistant with the Technology and National Security Program at CNAS. Her research interests include military applications of artificial intelligence, military effectiveness, and military innovation. Prior to joining CNAS, sheworked as an intelligence analyst at a risk consulting firm in Washington, DC. She also formerly worked as a counterterrorism researcher at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) and as a staff assistant on Capitol Hill. She holds an M.A. in Security Policy Studies from the George Washington University. She received her B.A. in Medical Humanities with a minor in Political Science from Baylor University.



Martín Redrado is the Secretary of Strategic Affairs for the City of Buenos Aires. Prior, he has served as Governor of the Central Bank of Argentina from 2004-2010; and a Senior Economic Advisor for the World Bank. At the Central Bank, he set up the monetary and financial framework that steered the country out of the worst economic crisis in its history. His policies and determination were instrumental in allowing Argentina to overcome successfully the world financial collapse of 2008-2009. An economist by education, he has lectured on several forums throughout Asia, Europe, United States, Africa and Latin America, regarding topics such as Global Economics & Emerging Markets, Finance & Investing and Economic Forecasts. He has also authored several publications on contemporary economics.



Cristobal Ramon is an independent expert on U.S. and global migration policy. He has served as a migration policy consultant to organizations, such as the Migration Policy Institute, the George W. Bush Institute, the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations, and the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. He previously worked for both the Immigration Project at the Bipartisan Policy Center and the National Immigration Forum and interned with the Migration Policy Institute. As a student, he interned for the Migration Policy Institute, the German Marshall Fund's Migration Program and the U.S. Helsinki Commission. During his master's program he focused on comparative U.S.-EU immigration policy. In addition, he researched Spain's immigration policy as a Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.



Charlette Betts is the Regional Technology Officer (RTO) based at the U.S. Consulate General in São Paulo, Brazil. As an RTO, she is responsible for monitoring and supporting U.S. government engagement on critical and emerging technologies (CET) in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. Her areas of focus include participation in multilateral CET engagements, reporting on advanced communications, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence policy developments, and promoting U.S. engagement in smart cities, telecommunications, and cybersecurity. Prior to serving in São Paulo, she served in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia managing the technical security and countermeasures for the Eastern Africa region for Diplomatic Security (DS). Before joining the Department of State, Charlette was the lead algorithm developer on the hypersonic global strike weapon program.



Mike Asencio is the Program Director for Cybersecurity at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy. Prior, he served as the Director of the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) at the FIU Libraries. In that capacity, he oversaw the premier digital library of Caribbean content in the world, a cooperative of 79 regional partners. His areas of expertise are in cyber-related tech, digital projects, workflow management, classroom technology implementation, collaborative digital resources platforms, and digital imaging quality control assessments and standards implementations, community engagement, partnership development, international collaborative projects, communities of practice, and digitization of archival and research materials.



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