October 5, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The Wilson Center’s Latin American Program is pleased to invite you to the seminar:

**Populism of the 21st Century**

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Fifth Floor Conference Room

In policy as well as scholarly circles, the issue of populism and its consequences for the future of democratic governance is a contested as well as highly-charged subject. We are convening a distinguished group of Latin American, U.S., and European scholars to come to a deeper understanding of this key aspect of contemporary Latin American politics and consider the implications for the region’s political future. Theoretically and empirically, what explains the revival of populism? What are the differences and continuities between the “classical” populism of the 1930s and ‘40s and its current manifestations? What are the social bases of populism and how do they differ from the past? How do leaders mobilize followers? How viable are these regimes and what are their prospects for enduring over time? Are they developing, as their leaders claim, alternative forms of democratic participation and citizenship or are they destroying the very foundation of democratic governance? Is the concept of populism useful as a way of understanding these regimes, or are there other analytic categories that are more appropriate?

We hope you will join us for this important and timely discussion. Please RSVP, acceptances only, to lap@wilsoncenter.org. An agenda appears below.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Arnson
Director, Latin American Program
Woodrow Wilson Center
Populism of the 21st Century
October 8, 2009
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Washington, D.C.

AGENDA

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bolivia: From the 1952 Revolution to Evo Morales: John Crabtree, Oxford University

Peru: From APRA to Ollanta Humala: Cynthia McClintock, George Washington University

Venezuela: Alexandra Panzarelli, Universidad Central de Venezuela

Moderator: Julio Carrión, University of Delaware

Discussion/Break

Brazil: Leslie Bethell, Oxford University and Woodrow Wilson Center

Colombia: Is Uribe a Populist? Ana María Bejarano, University of Toronto

Argentina: From the Peróns to the Kirchners: “Populism” in Argentine Politics Hector Schamis, Georgetown University

Moderator: Jorge Lanzaro, Universidad de la República, Uruguay, and Woodrow Wilson Center Public Policy Scholar