



Is There Hope for Central American Youth?

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Speakers' Biographies

Katharine Andrade Eekhoff currently coordinates program related to leadership, service and employability for youth at risk in El Salvador for Catholic Relief Services since 2010. She is also leading the implementation and scaling-up strategy for the Jovenes Constructores (YouthBuilders) She has been a professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador and worked for 8 years as a senior researcher with the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLASCO) in Central America, involved in policy related research on topics ranging from labor markets, poverty, social exclusion, violence, governance, and international migration, among others. She has served as a Board member of the International Network on Migration and Development (Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo) and advisor to the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC). She has consulted with the United Nations Development Program and the Pan American Development Foundation on issues and programs related to international migration, collaborating extensively with civil society organizations working on issues of youth violence, employability, migration and development in the United States and Central America. She holds a master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA, and has lived in El Salvador with her family and German Shepard dogs since 1994.

Miquel Cortes Bofill is a Spanish Jesuit priest who has lived in Guatemala since 2009. He is currently the Central America regional coordinator of the Fundación Educativa Fe y Alegría and the organization's general director in Guatemala. Previously he directed Fe y Alegría in El Salvador and Panama. He is also presently the vice president of La Liga Iberoamericana de Organizaciones Sociales de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social. Cortes Bofill has taught literature, religion, ethics, and human development in Spain and El Salvador. He has been a parish priest in El Salvador and Bolivia, a country where he also served as bursar of the Archdiocese of Cochabamba and director of the Fundación Social Uramanta. His written work has been published in Spain and Central America and he was featured in the UNESCO video "Kaimókara" in Panama. He holds a Master's degree in Theology from the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador. He also earned Bachelor's degrees in Philosophy and Education Sciences from the Universidad de España, Barcelona, and in Ecclesiastical Studies from the Facultad de Teología, Cataluña (España).

Anthony Fontes is a researcher, writer, and photographer completing a PhD in Geography at the University of California, Berkeley. His written and photographic work in Central America explores the blurred boundaries between the underworld and the law-abiding world resting upon it, civil war legacies, the meaning of justice, and violence in its most extreme and banal forms. His research has been funded by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Social Science Research Council/Open Society Foundation Drugs, Security and Democracy Program, the Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation, and the

University of California. Fontes's forthcoming manuscript explores the unprecedented growth of criminal violence in Central America. It is based on three years of ethnographic fieldwork in urban "red zones" and inside prisons with gang members, narco-traffickers, law enforcement, protected witnesses, and journalists. The result is an illuminating—and sometimes terrifying—odyssey into the moral, political, and psychological quandaries extreme violence forces upon its victims, perpetrators, and society as a whole. Fontes has worked as a free-lance journalist in Egypt and Guatemala, an actor in South America, a human rights advocate in India and Thailand, and an immigration legal advisor in California. Currently he lives between Santa Cruz, CA and Guatemala City.

Claudia Paz y Paz is a Fellow at Georgetown University's Law School and Institute for Women, Peace and Security. From December 2010 to May 2014, Paz y Paz served as the Attorney General of Guatemala. She was the first woman appointed to this role, and during her time in office she was widely recognized for her accomplishments. These included significantly reducing impunity and introducing 24 hour courts to expedite cases of violence against women. Paz y Paz also prosecuted human rights abuses which occurred during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, most notably in the case of former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt. As a result of her work as Attorney General, Paz y Paz was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, and she has received various honors, including the Vital Voices Leadership in Public Life Award. Prior to becoming Attorney General, Paz y Paz was a judge and served as the national consultant to the UN Mission in Guatemala. Paz y Paz founded the Institute for Comparative Criminal Studies of Guatemala in 1994. She received her undergraduate degree from Universidad Rafael Landívar in Guatemala and a doctorate in human rights and criminal law from the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain.

César Rivera is a senior specialist for state modernization at the Inter-American Development Bank. He focuses on lending operations in Honduras linked to issues of citizen security. Before he began working at the Inter-American Development Bank, Rivera undertook a career path in the public sector in El Salvador as an international consultant for various international cooperation agencies. During his many years as Director of the Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Pública, Rivera began working intensely on the social prevention of violence in high risk communities. More recently, he was a presidential advisor for citizen security. He received both bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and has also studied criminology in Japan. Rivera has contributed to various publications on the topics of social prevention of violence, public security politics, and community policing. Two years ago, he was part of a team of writers that produced the book *¿A Dónde Vamos?*, published by the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Rodrigo Serrano is Senior Social Development Specialist in the Latin America and Caribbean Region at the World Bank. He is the focal point for the citizen security and crime and violence prevention program in the region, which includes lending, technical assistance, and research initiatives in Brazil, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. He is currently leading the Bank's support to Central America's Regional Citizen Security Strategy as well as other high profile initiatives such as the efforts to prevent crime and violence in Rio de Janeiro's favelas. He has worked on a range of social development issues, including social vulnerability to climate change, community driven development, and participatory local governance. Prior to joining the Bank in 2003 he worked as a consultant for several international organizations. He holds a Masters in City Planning and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires.

MODERATORS

Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her most recent work has focused on democratic governance, conflict resolution, citizen security and organized crime, international relations, and U.S. policy in the Western hemisphere. Arnson is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, the Spanish-language edition of the distinguished journal *Foreign Affairs*. She is a member of the advisory boards of the Social Science Research Council's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum and of Human Rights Watch/Americas. She is editor of *In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict in Latin America* (WWC and Stanford, 2012); co-editor of *Latin American Populism in the 21st Century* (WWC and Johns Hopkins, 2013); and author of *Crossroads: Congress, the President, and Central America, 1976-1993* (Penn State, 2d ed., 1993), among other works. Arnson was a foreign policy aide in the House of Representatives during the Carter and Reagan administrations. She graduated magna cum laude from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and has an M.A. and Ph.D. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Carlos Basombrío is a Wilson Center Global Fellow, the consulting director of the Citizen Security Project of the Wilson Center's Latin American Program, and a political analyst for the Peruvian newspaper, *Perú 21*. He is the former director of the Instituto de Defensa Legal, one of Peru's premiere human rights organizations. Basombrío previously worked in Peru's Ministry of the Interior in the roles of Vice Minister, Chief of the Cabinet of Advisors, Coordinator of the Commission to Restructure the Police, and Member of the Commission for the Modernization of the Police. As a consultant and independent researcher for both Peruvian and international organizations, he has written widely on issues of citizen security, democracy, peace and violence, civil-military relations, and police reform. Basombrío holds a B.A. in Sociology from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

Eric L. Olson is the Associate Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. His research and writing has focused primarily on security issues and the impacts of crime, organized crime, and violence on democracies. He has also written about reform of police and judicial institutions as a vehicle for addressing the problem of rapidly expanding crime in the Americas. He has traveled extensively in Mexico, Central America and the Andes. Prior to joining the Wilson Center he was a Senior Specialist in the Department for Promotion of Good Governance at the Organization of American States from 2006-2007. He served as Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International USA from 2002-2006. Prior to Amnesty, he was the Senior Associate for Mexico, and Economic Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America for eight years. He worked at Augsburg College's Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico from 1989-1993 where he was the program director. From 1986-1988, he worked in Honduras, Central America as a development specialist for several local non-governmental organizations. He has an M.A. in International Affairs from the School of International Service at American University, Washington, D.C.