



Taxation and Equality in Latin America

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Speakers' Biographies

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 challenges to democratic governance in the hemisphere, Central America, U.S.-Colombian relations, and citizen security in Latin America. She is editor of the forthcoming *In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict* (2011); editor of *Comparative Peace Processes in Latin America* (1999), co-editor (with I. William Zartman) of *Rethinking the Economics of War: The Intersection of Need, Creed, and Greed* (2005), and author of *Crossroads: Congress, the President, and Central America, 1976-1993* (2d ed., 1993). She is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica* and a member of the advisory board of Human Rights Watch/Americas. Arnson has an MA and PhD in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Alberto Barreix is the senior fiscal economist at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), charged with providing technical advice on tax policy and administration reform projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to joining the IADB, Barreix was a lecturer on public finance at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and deputy director of the university's Program on Tax Analysis. He has consulted for the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development, was director of the Department of Fiscal Policy at the Uruguayan Tax Administration, and coordinator of the Fiscal Policy Committee for MERCOSUR. Barreix holds an MPA and PhD from Harvard University.

Marcelo Sergio Bergman is a researcher at the Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and an associate tenure professor in the Department of Law at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. Since 2005, he has served as the founder and academic director of the Study of Security and Rule of Law Program (PESED) at CIDE. He has held other teaching and research positions at the University of Oregon, the United Nations Development Program, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Bergman is the author of numerous works, including *Tax Evasion and the Rule of Law in Latin America: The Political Culture of Cheating and Compliance in Argentina and Chile* (2010); *The Challenges of Rising Criminality to Democracy and Rule of Law in Latin America* (2009); and *La Confianza y el Derecho en América Latina* (2007). He received his BA and MA in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his PhD in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego.



Maynor Cabrera is the senior economist at the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales (ICEFI) in Guatemala. He formerly served as Secretary of the Commission on Fiscal Progress and advisor to the Executive Office's Department of Programs and Planning (SEGEPLAN). He has been a researcher at the Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES) and the Centro de Investigaciones Económicas Nacionales (CIEN), both in Guatemala, and has consulted for the United Nations Development Program, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Cabrera has an MA in Economics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Chile.

Laura Frigenti is director of Strategy and Operations for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank. Since joining the Bank in 1994, she has been country director for Central America, sector manager for Human Development for Eastern and Central Africa, and country program coordinator for Turkey, among others. Prior these positions, she worked for the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Developmental Cooperation, and United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Chile, Argentina, and Nicaragua. Frigenti graduated from the University of Rome with a *laurea magna cum laude* in History and Modern Philosophy.

Juan Carlos Gómez Sabaíni is a professor of public finance at the Economics Department at the University of Buenos Aires and a member of the Department of Fiscal Affairs for the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He also serves as a member of the advisory board to the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales (ICEFI) in Guatemala. Formerly the Deputy Secretary for Tax Policy in Argentina, Sabaíni has consulted for various multilateral organizations and was principal economist for the Department of Economic Affairs at the Organization of American States. He received his PhD in Economics, specializing in Public Finance, from Columbia University.

Juan Pablo Jiménez is a professor at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University and economics affairs officer at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has taught at the University of Buenos Aires and at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) and served as a visiting professor in the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund. Jiménez's non-academic experience stems from work in Argentina's Ministry of Economy and National Congress, as well as having consulted for a variety of international and multilateral organizations. He has been a consultant for the World Bank, UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program. He has authored several articles and papers on aspects of economic development, macro fiscal sustainability, social policy, and decentralization in Latin America. Jiménez holds an MA in International Affairs from Columbia University and an MA in Economics from the Universidad Di Tella in Argentina.



Nora Lustig is Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics at Tulane University and a non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development and the Inter-American Dialogue. She has held other distinguished professorships at The George Washington University, Universidad de las Américas in Puebla, Mexico, and El Colegio de México, and senior positions at the United Nations Development Program, Inter-American Development Bank, and Brookings Institution. She has published numerous works on inequality, poverty, social policy, and development economics, including *Declining Inequality in Latin America. A Decade of Progress?*; *Thought for Food: the Challenges of Coping with Soaring Food Prices*; *The Microeconomics of Income Distribution Dynamics*; *Shielding the Poor: Social Protection in the Developing World*; and the award-winning *Mexico: The Remaking of an Economy*. Lustig received her PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Marcus André Melo is professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil. He has been a visiting professor at Yale University, a Fulbright Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and residential fellow at Bellagio's Rockefeller Center. He has authored chapters in *Who decides the budget: the political economy analysis of the budget process in Latin America*; and *Policy-making in Latin America: how policy shapes policy*, and is co-author of *The Political Economy of Fiscal Reforms in Brazil*. He has published various articles in the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Latin American Politics and Society*. Melo holds a PhD from Sussex University in the UK.

John Scott is a professor-researcher and former director of the Economics Division at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. He is also a member of the Academic Board of the Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social (CONEVAL), an autonomous public institution responsible for poverty measurement and the evaluation of federal social programs in Mexico. His principal research areas include the distributive incidence of public spending and taxation, the study of poverty and inequality, and the evaluation of social and rural development policies, agricultural and energy subsidies, and health and social security systems. He has consulted for a host of multilateral organizations, and has worked for the Treasury, Social, Health, and Labor Ministries in Mexico. He is currently completing a book on the political economy of inequality in Mexico. Scott received a BA *cum laude* in Philosophy from New York University and MPhil in Economics from Oxford University.

Natalia Salazar is deputy director of Fedesarrollo in Bogotá, Colombia. Previously, she served as Vice Minister and director of macroeconomic policy at the Colombian Ministry of Finance, vice president of the National Financial Institutions Association, and director of the Monetary and the Sectoral Studies and Regulation Divisions of Colombia's National Planning Department. She has conducted research for the Central Bank of Colombia, Fedesarrollo, and the Center of Economic Studies (CEDE) of the Universidad de Los Andes, and is the author of several articles published in Colombia and abroad. She was also formerly the editor of the academic journal *Coyuntura Económica* (Fedesarrollo) and a member of the editorial board of the journal *Desarrollo y Sociedad* (CEDE-Universidad de los Andes). Salazar holds a BA and MSc in Economics from the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá.