



History and Politics in Ecuador Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Speakers' Biographies

Catherine M. Conaghan is a specialist in Latin American politics, with a focus on the Andean region. She is currently a Professor of Political Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Her research includes extensive fieldwork in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia and she is the author of several books on politics in the Andean region. She has been affiliated with Center of International Studies at Princeton University, the Helen Kellogg Institute of the University of Notre Dame, the North-South Institute of the University of Miami, and the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos. Conaghan served as visiting Fulbright scholar in Peru, and was visiting Knapp Chair in Liberal Arts at the University of San Diego. Her publications include articles in the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Research Review*, and *Studies in Comparative International Development*. Conaghan's current research is entitled, "The Aftermath of Presidential Corruption in Latin America." She received her doctorate from Yale University.

Carlos de la Torre is a professor of Political Studies at the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences FLACSO-Ecuador. Presently he is a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He was previously Associate Professor of Sociology at Northeastern University and at Drew University, and will be a visiting resource professor at University of Texas, Austin in 2010. De la Torre is the author of five books and dozens of articles and book chapters, most of which focus on two main research areas: populism and populist movements in Latin America, and racism and ethnic/racial movements in Ecuador. His work on Latin American populism "The Ambiguous Meanings of Latin American Populism" was an eye-opening piece that strongly influenced many analysts of neopopulism. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the New School for Social Research.

Steve Striffler is Doris Zemurray Stone Chair in Latin American Studies and Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Orleans. His research focuses on the politics of commodities. His first book, *In the Shadows of State and Capital: The United Fruit Company, Popular Struggle, and Agrarian Restructuring in Ecuador, 1900-1995*, explored the development of the banana industry in Ecuador. His second book, *Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food*, examined the history of the poultry industry, the place of chicken within the American diet, and the immigration of Latin Americans into the American South. He is currently exploring the development of Colombia's coal industry by foreign multinationals and its impact on Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities in northern Colombia. Striffler holds a Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research.