



April 27, 2011

Dear Colleague:

The Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is pleased to invite you for a discussion of:

The Quality of Democracy in Latin America

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Floor Conference Room

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Featuring

Daniel Levine, Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center and

Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

and

Diego Abente, Deputy Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies,

National Endowment for Democracy

In considering the nature and future prospects of the current wave of democracies in Latin America, analysis has shifted from a concern with regime change, transitions, and consolidation to a focus on the quality of these democracies. In the new book *The Quality of Democracy*, co-editors Daniel Levine and José E. Molina provide a rich and nuanced analysis of democratic systems and propose a theoretical foundation for the understanding of Latin American democracies. Detailed case studies of Mexico, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil are provided.

Critical questions to be explored include: To what extent do citizens participate and influence decision-making? Are elections free and fair? Are there ways of ensuring government accountability? Do unelected power brokers exert undue influence?

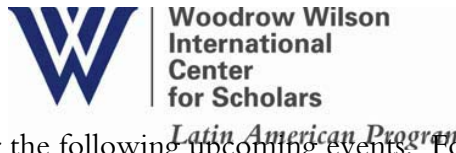
We hope you can join us for this important discussion. Please RSVP by clicking [here](#).

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Arnson

Director

Latin American Program



Please also consider joining us for the following upcoming events. For more details and to RSVP, please click on the event titles.

[*Policing Democracy: Overcoming Obstacles to Citizen Security Reform in Latin America*](#)

[*A Conversation with His Excellency Ricardo Martinelli, President of the Republic of Panama: Economic Growth and Democratic Stability in Latin America*](#)

[*Previewing the OAS General Assembly: Citizen Security in the Americas*](#)

[*Taxation and Equality in Latin America*](#)