
The surge: Politics, violence, and children in Central America and Mexico



OCTOBER 15, 2015

ABOUT THE EVENT

Unaccompanied children and adolescents have come in historic large numbers from multiple countries in Central America and Mexico in recent years. Since October 2013, nearly 74,000 unaccompanied children and adolescents have entered the US leaving their homes for various reasons, primarily involving fear of violence, and making a long and challenging journey to the US. A large proportion of these children and adolescents have arrived in New York State where from October 2013 through July 2015, 7400 have settled with relatives or sponsors. More than 12,200 have arrived in the New York tri-state area during this time. This conference is organized with the goal of understanding the origins of the migration of these children in order to better serve them and to better understand their needs.

GOALS

To promote greater understanding of the originating environment from which the unaccompanied minors and their families have migrated, focusing on the Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and to understand what immigrants traveling from Central America are experiencing as they journey through Mexico, including the social and political climate in Mexico, and the process of their migration.

AGENDA

5:30 - 6:00 **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN**

6:00 - 6:15 **OPENING REMARKS**

Jose Moya

Director Institute of Latin American Studies
(ILAS) & Barnard Forum on Migration

6:15 - 6:45 **FORCED MIGRATION: SUFFERING
& DISINTEGRATION OF FAMILY IN
CENTRAL AMERICA**

José Alberto Idiáquez Guevara, S.J

Rector, Universidad Centro Americana,
Managua, Nicaragua

6:45 - 7:15 **THE MIGRATION OF
UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA:
CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES AND
ADVOCACY RESPONSES**

Eric Hershberg & Dennis Stitchcomb

American University, Washington DC

7:15 - 7:45 **THE MIGRATION THROUGH MEXICO**

TBD

7:45 - 8:05 **Q&A (ENTIRE PANEL)**

8:05 - 8:20 **CLOSING REMARKS: SOCIAL AND
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON
LATIN AMERICAN CHILDHOODS**

Nara Milanic

Department of History, Barnard

PARTICIPANTS



JOSÉ C. MOYA

José C. Moya is professor of history and Director of the Forum on Migration at Barnard College, Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia, and Professor Emeritus at UCLA. He has been a visiting professor at the universities of Paris, San Andres (Argentina), and Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and invited

speaker or research fellow at the universities of Berlin, Vienna, Krakow, Oxford, Leiden, Louvain, Fudan in Shanghai, Tel Aviv, Sao Paulo, the London School of Economics, and the Colegio de Mexico, among others.

Professor Moya has authored more than fifty publications, including *Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires*, a book that received five awards and was the subject of a special forum in the journal *Historical Methods* for its contributions to migration and Latin American studies; and most recently, *World Migration in the Long Twentieth Century* (2011), co-authored with Adam McKeown. He is currently working on a book about anarchism in Buenos Aires and the Atlantic World during the belle époque (1890-1914) and editing a book on runaway slaves, serfs, and peons worldwide, and another one titled "Atlantic Crossings: Webs of Migration, Culture and Politics between Europe, Africa, and the Americas, 1800-2010."



JOSÉ ALBERTO IDIÁQUEZ GUEVARA, S.J

José Alberto Idiáquez Guevara, S.J., Rector, Universidad Centro Americana (UCA), Managua, Nicaragua holds a degree in Filosofía y Ciencias Sociales of the Instituto Libre de Filosofía y Ciencias de la

Compañía de Jesús (México), and a master's in Theology (Universidad Centroamericana Simeón Cañas, de El Salvador) and in social anthropology (University of Texas, Austin). Since 2001, he is the Provincial Superior for the Jesuits in Central America.

Father Idiáquez is the primary sponsor of the annual international conferences on migración organized by the Jesuit Network of Central American Universities. He created the first masters degree in migration studies in the Jesuit Central American University Network, and is actively involved, through the Jesuit Network, in the defense of human rights for Nicaraguan and Centralamerican migrants. He is the author of "El culto a los ancestros: en la cosmovisión religiosa de los garífunas de Nicaragua" Instituto Histórico Centroamericano, 1994; and "En búsqueda de esperanza: migración ngäbe a Costa Rica y su impacto en la juventud" with Jorge Sarsanedas, 2012; as well as multiple articles in the Jesuit and Catholic press in Central America.



ERIC HERSHBERG

Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. He received his Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at Simon Fraser University, New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton

and the New School. From 1991 to 2005 he served as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City, and is Past-President of the Latin American Studies Association (2007-2009).

Professor Hershberg has published widely on issues of political economy, development and democracy throughout Latin America. In addition to several dozen journal articles, he has edited and contributed chapters to a number of volumes in recent years. These include *New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America: Voice and Consequence*, co-edited with Maxwell A. Cameron and Kenneth Sharpe. New York: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2012. *Left Turns: Politics, Policies and Trajectories of Change in Latin America*, co-edited with Maxwell A. Cameron, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010; *State and Society in Conflict: Comparative Perspectives on Andean Crises*, co-edited with Paul W. Drake, Univ of Pittsburgh Press, 2006); *Latin America After Neoliberalism: Turning the Tide in the 21st Century?* Co-edited with Fred Rosen, The New Press, 2006. He is currently coordinating a multi-volume series on the *Reconfiguration of Elites and Power in Central America*. Professor Hershberg is also co-author, with Dennis Stinchcomb, of “Unaccompanied Migrant Children from Central America: Causes, Consequences and Responses,” CLALS Working Paper No. 7, Nov. 2014). During 2015 he has submitted numerous expert affidavits for immigration cases stemming from the recent wave of youth and family migration from the region.



DENNIS STINCHCOMB

Dennis Stinchcomb is a Program Manager at American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS). In this capacity, he coordinates several CLALS projects, including the Center's portfolio of research on immigration-related issues and Central

American gangs. He is the co-author, with Eric Hershberg, of a 2014 study addressing the drivers of increased migration to the U.S. of unaccompanied children and families from Central America. The report also analyzed factors that influence new arrivals' prospects for securing immigration relief in light of recent trends.



NARA MILANICH

Nara Milanich is Associate Professor of History at Barnard College/Columbia University. She writes on the histories of family, childhood, gender, reproduction, law and social inequality in modern Latin America. Her book *Children of Fate: Childhood, Class, and the State in Chile, 1850-1930* (Duke Univ. Press, 2009)

won the Grace Abbott Prize of the Society for the History of Children and Youth. She is currently writing a book entitled *The Birth of Uncertainty: Testing Paternity in the Twentieth Century* (Harvard Univ. Press) which traces the emergence and impact of biological tests of paternity globally. Among other topics, the book explores the boom in DNA paternity testing as a feminist, anti-poverty public policy in contemporary Latin America. Her research has been supported by the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange, the Social Science Research Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Professor Milanich teaches such graduate and undergraduate courses as *Inequalities: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Latin American History and Society*, *Populations and Bodies in Latin American History*, *Origin Stories: Race, Genealogy and Citizenship*, *Women and Gender in Latin American History*, and *Global Politics of Reproduction*. She has also taught in and directed the Masters in Latin American Studies (MARSLAC) based at ILAS. She worked as a volunteer interpreter in asylum cases in Chicago and served as an expert witness in an asylum case involving a Guatemalan minor. She is co-founder with Prof. Alyshia Galvez (Lehman College-CUNY) of the Dream Act Faculty Alliance, a network of NY area faculty who seek to promote access to higher education among undocumented students.



MARK CANAVERA

Mark Canavera is the Associate Director of the CPC (Care and Protection of Children) Learning Network Secretariat housed in the Department of Population and Family Health at Mailman. He is a humanitarian aid and development worker who focuses on child protection in West Africa.

He has worked on former child soldier reintegration in northern Uganda, small arms control in Senegal, girls' education promotion in Burkina Faso, and child welfare system reform in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, and Benin. He holds Master's degrees in Peace Studies from Notre Dame and Public Policy from Harvard.

As the leader of the task force on systems strengthening and disaster risk reduction of the global Child Protection Working Group, Mark has overseen a multi-year, inter-agency research series examining how humanitarian responses can support longer-term systems strengthening for children and families in emergency-affected settings. Mark also co-chairs an interest group on evidence building for the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance for which he is examining ways to better train, equip, and support the workers—from frontline workers to policymakers—who are responsible for ensuring children's health, development, protection, and wellbeing. Mark is also co-founder of the Rustin Fund for Global Equality, a non-profit organization.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

MANUELA ORJUELA-GRIMM

Manuela Orjuela-Grimm, a member of the Departments of Epidemiology (Mailman School of Public Health) and Pediatrics (Oncology) is a molecular epidemiologist, pediatric oncologist and NIH funded researcher specializing in gene-nutrient environment interactions in Latino children in NY, and in Central Mexico where she has carried out extensive field work in collaboration with several Mexican health institutions. She founded and leads the CAMINANDO working group. With funding from ILAS, CAMINANDO is in the early phases of a pilot study of the immigrant minors in collaboration with two organizations who provide them legal services. Dr. Orjuela is a member of the Physicians for Human Rights Asylum Network.

JAIRO GUZMAN

Jairo Guzman, President and Founder of the Mexican Coalition/ Coalicion Mexicana, is a Social Worker specializing in childhood and youth protection services, the child welfare system, and more recently in needs specific to Latino immigrants in NY. He also holds a certificate in migration studies from CIDE in Mexico.

COALICION MEXICANA

Coalicion Mexicana was founded in 2012 to meet the rising needs of the Mexican community and identify opportunities to empower Latin American immigrants living in NYC and the tri-state area, focusing on needs in education, legal support, and health. With the Mexican Consulate in NY they are implementing a mobile health program to facilitate health care access to Mexican nationals whose immigration status and employment limit access. At the consulates of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras, they offer health workshops and legal support facilitating access to other services. Coalicion Mexicana is a member of the New York Immigrant Coalition and the South Bronx Churches coalition.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

ERIC NICKLAS

Eric Nicklas is an adjunct professor in Columbia's School of Social Work and an advisor to the Mexican Coalition

Claudia Urey, Advisor to the Office of the President Universidad CentroAmericana (UCA) (Nicaragua) and Director of the Legal Support Department at the Mexican Coalition, holds Masters degrees in Criminal & Procedural Law (UCA) and in Administrative Law (Universidad de Barcelona). **Laura Vargas**, MSW/PhD Candidate School of Social Work. **Jose Moya**, Director of the FOM and ILAS. **Claudio Lomnitz**, Director of the Mexican Studies Center. **Maritza Colon**, Executive Director of ILAS. **Barbara Aaron**, **Gerald Govia**, and **Kristen Byers**, Department of Epidemiology.

