

RedGob Conference on Violence, Public Security and Human Rights in Latin America

Bergen 27-28 October 2011

Venue: Just Faaland Meeting Room, Chr. Michelsen Institute
Jekteviksbakken 31, Bergen (3rd floor)

On behalf of the RedGob network,¹ the Department of Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen and the Chr Michelsen Institute welcome you to the 2011 RedGob conference.

The aim of this year's conference is to facilitate a multifaceted discussion of the local, national and regional dynamics of crime, violence and security in Latin America. Intractable violent conflicts, spiralling crime rates and high levels of insecurity plague many Latin American countries. In Mexico and Central America expansion of organized crime threatens democratic institutions and human rights, and place additional strain on vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples and migrants. Some areas have seen a disturbing trend of femicides. Youth violence continues to increase in Central America, Mexico and Brazil. In Colombia and Peru protracted political conflicts have transformed social structures and enabled the emergence of new violent actors. Drug trafficking has expanded to new territories. Attempts to combat drugs, crime and violence, often through *mano dura* (iron fist) politics and militarization, themselves pose challenges for human rights and democracy.

This dramatic panorama of crime, violence and insecurity does, however, present local, national, and regional differences. Not all Mexican states are plagued with drug trafficking and violence - and Nicaragua, situated on the drug trafficking routes, have relatively low crime rates. There are also ambiguities. Youth gangs, for example, can also be seen as protective mechanisms against lack on education, health, work and security.

What are the underlying driving forces of the current crime and violence problems – and what is needed to change them? What are the effects/limits of security policies such as *mano dura*, war on drugs and community policing – and how should democratic leaders act to counteract the problems of violence and insecurity? Is it possible to do so without jeopardizing human rights? How do crime, violence and insecurity affect democratic institutions? What is the role of the state in the production/reduction of crime, violence and security? Can we learn from comparative studies with other regions in the world?

Many of you have submitted your paper proposals already. Additional proposals addressing these and related questions are welcome until September 28. Abstracts (200 words) should be sent to Catalina Vallejo <Catalina.Vallejo@cmi.no> with a copy to siri.gloppen@cmi.no. (We are not able to fund all presenters, but we still have some funds available that can be applied for). If you want to join the RedGob conference, but have a different research area, you could apply to present a paper at the NorLaNet conference, which takes place in Bergen on October 26 and 27. <http://norlarnet2011.b.uib.no/>

We look forward to seeing you here!

Leiv Marstintredet, Einar Berntzen, Elin Skaar and Siri Gloppen (organising team)

Catalina Vallejo (assistant) Catalina.Vallejo@cmi.no (please contact Catalina as soon as possible to confirm hotel bookings, travel arrangements, invitation letters etc.)

¹ For more information on RedGob see <http://sites.google.com/site/reddegobernabilidad/redgob>

PROGRAM

26 & 27 October: NorLaNet conference with RedGob events.

Venue: Scandic Bergen City Hotel

Wed. 26.10,

11:45: **Violence, security and human rights in Latin America**

Panel debate chaired by Leiv Marsteintredet, (UoB)

Thurs 27.10

09.15-10.45: RedGob Panel on ***Violence, Public Security and Human Rights in Latin America*** chaired by Otto Argueta (GIGA)

11.00-12.30: RedGob Panels on ***Crime, Violence and Security in Latin America 1b: Políticas de Seguridad, Violencia y Derechos Humanos - Poverty politics in contemporary Latin America: comparative and critical views, and Contemporary Latin American Film.***

13.30-15.00: RedGob Panels on ***Crime, Violence and Security in Latin America 2: Crimen organizado - Extracting Justice? Resource Extraction and Development in Latin America - The Grass Root and the State (part 1), and Language and culture in Latin America***

(For the full NorLaNet-programme see <http://norlarnet2011.b.uib.no/program/>)

19:00: Business dinner for RedGob representatives (Hanne På Høyden)

Friday 28 October: RedGob Conference

Venue: Chr. Michelsen Institute, Just Faaland Meeting Room (3rd floor)

8:30 - 9:00 Coffee and welcome by Siri Gloppen (UoB, CMI)

Session 1

9:00 – 11:00 **Patterns, perceptions and effects of violence in Latin America**

- Key note address: Rachel Sieder (CIESAS, CMI)
- Paper presentations by Ricardo Córdova, María Alegre and José Luiz Ratton.
- Discussant: Detlef Nolte (GIGA)
- Moderator: Leiv Marsteintredet (UoB)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break - Finger food will be served.

Session 2

11:30- 13:30 **Courts and Violence in Latin America**

- Key note: Daniel Brinks (University of Texas / CMI)
- Paper presentations by Elena Martínez Barahona, Martha Liliana Gutiérrez Salazar, Francisco Valdés and Karina Ansolabehere.

- Discussant: Laurence Whitehead (University of Oxford)
- Moderator: Elin Skaar (CMI)

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Film: “*Presunto Culpable*” (“Presumed Guilty” on the prison system in Mexico)

Session 3

16:00 – 18:00 **Crime and violence management in Latin America: problems and solutions**

- Paper presentations by Mark Ungar, Otto Argueta and Georgina Paolino.
- Discussant: Leonardo Morlino (International Political Science Association, School of Government LUISS Guido Carli)
- Moderator Einar Berntzen (UoB)

19:00: Informal conference dinner (Zuppería -Nordahl Bruns gate-)