


The College of Liberal Arts, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, and Andrew Mellon Latin American Sociology Fellowships Program in collaboration with the Ford Foundation present a research workshop:

# DECENTRALIZATION, SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL RIGHTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION in Combating Poverty and Inequality in Latin America



**April 22-24, 2001**

**The University of Texas at Austin  
Texas Union**

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## Program Overview

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This Research Workshop will address two major social policy issues that are increasingly interwoven, namely, an ongoing concern with poverty and inequality, and the risks and opportunities that accompany current decentralization policies as responsibilities are being shifted from states to lower levels of government, to NGOs, and to community organizations.

Experts from South America, Mexico, the U.S., and Europe will be coming to UT to discuss the following questions and issues arising from decentralization and changes in the nature and delivery of social policy: How can external agents best complement local community initiatives? What new relationships are being forged between the various actors? How do anti-poverty policies articulate and intersect with local communities? How far does social policy reduce or intensify spatial segregation and social stratification patterns, as measured by access to jobs, housing improvements, health care, and education?

The Monday, April 23, panel sessions of the workshop will be open to faculty, interested graduate students, and the public. Presentations will be in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. The Tuesday, April 24, working groups are closed sessions.

This conference will be preceded by a Keynote Lecture on Sunday, April 22, at 5:00 P.M., Eastwoods Room 2.102, Texas Union. It will be offered by Dr. Vilmar Faria (Chief Adviser to President Cardoso), "Social Policy in Latin America: The New Agenda."

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## The Conference at a Glance

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### SUNDAY, APRIL 22:

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>5:00 P.M.</b>      | <b>KEYNOTE LECTURE</b><br>Eastwoods Room 2.102, Texas Union |
| <b>6:00–6:30 P.M.</b> | <b>RECEPTION</b>  |

### MONDAY, APRIL 23 (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC):

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>8:30 A.M.</b>        | <b>REGISTRATION AND WELCOME</b> |
| <b>9:00 A.M.–12:15</b>  | <b>PANEL DISCUSSIONS</b>        |
| <b>12:15–12:45 P.M.</b> | <b>LUNCH</b>                    |
| <b>1:00–4:15 P.M.</b>   | <b>PANEL DISCUSSIONS</b>        |
| <b>4:15 P.M.</b>        | <b>TEA</b>                      |
| <b>4:30–6:00 P.M.</b>   | <b>PANEL DISCUSSIONS</b>        |

### TUESDAY, APRIL 24 (WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS ONLY):

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|----------------------------|---|
| <b>8:30 A.M.–9:15 A.M.</b> | <b>PLENARY PANEL</b>                                      |
| <b>9:30 A.M.–12:30</b>     | <b>PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS</b>                          |
| <b>12:30–1:15 P.M.</b>     | <b>LUNCH</b>  |
| <b>1:30–4:00 P.M.</b>      | <b>PLENARY SESSION</b><br>(CLOSING COMMENTS AT 3:45 P.M.) |

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## Sunday, April 22

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**5:00 P.M.**      **KEYNOTE LECTURE**  
*Social Policy in Latin America: The New Agenda*  
Vilmar Faria, Chief Adviser to President Cardoso  
Eastwoods Room 2.102, Texas Union

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## Day One: Monday, April 23

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**Open Panel Sessions**  
*Location:* Eastwoods Room, 2.102, Texas Union

(Specific details of presenters and paper titles will be available on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> for circulation at the beginning of the meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.)

**8:30 A.M.**                      **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**  
Victoria E. Rodríguez, Vice Provost  
Bryan Roberts, Dept. of Sociology

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
Jorge Balan, Kimberley Brown, and Anthony Tillet  
Ford Foundation

**9:00–10:30 A.M.**  
*What's Left for Central Government? The Role of National Programs in Pursuing Regional Equality*

**10:45 A.M.–12:15**  
*National Policies and Their Evaluation*

**12:15–1:00 P.M.**              **LUNCH**

**1:00–2:30 P.M.**  
*Innovations in Local Government and Community Development*

**2:45–4:15 P.M.**  
*Survival and Betterment Strategies of the Poor and their Intersection with Sociospatial Segmentation, Urban Segregation, and Housing Production*

**TEA**

**4:30–6:00 P.M.**  
*The Significance for Community Development Strategies and Social Policy for Gender, Age, Family Structure, and Social Networks*

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## **DAY TWO: Tuesday, April 24** (Closed Sessions)

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### **Plenary Panel: 8:30–9:15 A.M.**

#### **SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND COLLABORATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

Jorge Balan, Kimberley Brown, and Anthony Tillet, Ford Foundation

Lawrence Graham, Dept. of Government

Bryan Roberts, Dept. of Sociology

*Location:* Eastwoods Room, 2.102

### **Parallel Working Groups: 9:30 A.M.–12:30**

#### **GROUP 1. LOCALITY-BASED STUDIES OF POVERTY IN ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND PERU**

*Location:* Chicano Culture Room, 4.206

*Moderator:* Bryan Roberts, Dept. of Sociology

This Working Group is designed as a long working session for those who are or will be directly involved in locality-based studies of poverty and social policy. The aim will be to develop a comparative research strategy within and between the countries. This will involve discussing and, if possible, finalizing choice of locations, types of projects to be studied, and methodology to be used. The present plan is to concentrate on the differences between communities in (a) capital cities, and (b) provincial regions.

*Invitees should bring suggestions as to locations and supporting data as to the initiatives and context.*

#### **GROUP 2. SPATIAL SEGREGATION, ASSETS, AND VULNERABILITY**

*Location:* Asian Culture Room, 4.224

*Moderator:* Peter M. Ward, Dept. of Sociology

This research will involve discussions about concerted attempts to use Geographical Information systems to map the distribution of poverty, of housing tenure types, and of health, educational, and other community facilities. The aim is both to provide comparable data on trends in segregation in the cities of Latin America, as well as to offer a systematic basis for

the selection of communities for more intensive study. Part of the aim of this exercise is to develop a methodology for selecting communities for more intensive study. It should also be helpful to ongoing locality-based studies of poverty by 'locating' those localities in their sociospatial context.

#### **GROUP 3. COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF DECENTRALIZATION, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, AND PARTICIPATION**

*Location:* Eastwoods Room, 2.102

*Moderator:* Peter Spink, FGV-SP, Visiting Phillips Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs

This Working Group will consider planned comparative research, within and between countries, on the institutional aspects of decentralization and on different types of organizational interface. In this latter category, research could include the relationships between: NGOs and government agencies or authorities; local and national government; community organizations, local government, and external organizations; or community members and organizations at the local and national level.

#### **GROUP 4. COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON GENDER AND SOCIAL POLICY**

*Location:* Eastwoods Room B Group, 2.102

*Moderator:* Mercedes González de la Rocha, CIESAS–Occidente, Mexico

This session is designed to plan comparative research on the significance of gender for social policies that are designed to combat poverty.

#### **GROUP 5. THE EVALUATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES IN MEXICO, BRAZIL, AND ELSEWHERE**

*Location:* Santa Rita Room, 3.502

*Moderator:* Joseph Potter, Dept. of Sociology

This session will examine research on the evaluation of national policies, considering, at a minimum, Progresá in Mexico and health programs in Brazil.

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## DAY TWO: Tuesday, April 24 (cont.)

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### Plenary Session: 1:30–4:00 P.M.

*Location:* Eastwoods Room, 2.102

1. Working Groups report back on their decisions, beginning with the session devoted to the locality project.
2. Possible future research collaboration and coordination of research activities.
3. Closing Remarks: Ford Foundation Officers
4. Closing Remarks: Bryan Roberts and Peter M. Ward

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## Thank You

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UT-Austin College of Liberal Arts  
Andrew Mellon Fellowships Program in Latin American Sociology  
C. B. Smith Sr. Centennial Chairs in U.S.-Mexico Relations (I & II)  
UT-Austin Department of Sociology  
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## List of Participants

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*Above all, we are especially grateful to the following Latin Americanist scholars for their participation in this Workshop:*

- a) **Argentina**
  - Carlos Acuña
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  - Gabriel Kesler
  - Claudia Lozano
  - Fabian Repetto
- b) **Brazil**
  - Pedro Barros Silva
  - Regina Faria
  - Vilmar Faria
  - Marcos Melo
  - Peter Spink
- c) **Chile**
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  - John Durston
  - Dagmar Raczynski
  - Francisco Sabatini
  - Maria Elena Valenzuela
  - Guillermo Wormald
- d) **Colombia**
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- e) **Holland**
  - Norman Long
- f) **Mexico**
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  - Agustín Escobar
  - Mario Luis Fuentes
  - Mercedes González de la Rocha
  - Daniel Hernández
  - Orlandina de Oliveira
- g) **Peru**
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  - Jaime Joseph
  - Francisco Dumler
  - Carmela Vildoso
- h) **United Kingdom**
  - Rosemary Thorp
- i) **Uruguay**
  - Carlos Filgueira
  - Ruben Kaztman
- j) **Ford Foundation**
  - Jorge Balan
  - Anthony Tillett
  - Kimberley Brown

### For Further Information:

Please contact either Bryan Roberts [brr@prc.utexas.edu](mailto:brr@prc.utexas.edu) or Peter M. Ward [peter.ward@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:peter.ward@mail.utexas.edu) or call 512-471-6302.

