

**The New School**  
**The Observatory on Latin America**  
**Conference**

New Opportunities for US – Latin American Relations:  
Latin American Perspectives

**April 10, 2009**

In the last six months there have been four reports prepared by leading institutions in the United States on opportunities for changes in US- Latin relations. These reports were largely prepared by North American specialists on this subject in anticipation of the new Administration in Washington and without much critical perspective from Latin Americans involved in politics and international affairs. The purpose of this Observatory on Latin America (OLA) conference is to provide a space for a Latin American exchange on opportunities for new approaches to US-Latin American relations.

**The conference will be organized into three sessions:**

**10.00am - 12.30pm: Session 1: Overview: Visions of US Latin American Relations**

**Chair:** Michael Cohen, Director OLA

**Presentation:** Professor Greg Grandin, Department of History, New York University

**Commentators:**

- Ariel Bergamino, Presidential Advisor, Uruguay
- Lázaro Cárdenas, Former governor of the Michoacan State, Mexico
- Torcuato di Tella, Political Scientist, and former Secretary of Culture, Argentina
- Joao Feres, Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ), author of recent book on US-Latin American Relations

**Round-table discussion**

**12.30pm - 2.00pm: Break**

**2.00pm - 3.30pm: Session 2: Economic Relations in a time of Global Crisis**

**Chair:** Alberto Minujín, Fellow OLA

**Presentation:** Pablo Solón, Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations

**Commentators:**

- Jorge Argüello, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

- Marcelo Brignoni, Representative, Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina
- Bernardo Kliksberg, Senior Advisor UNDP Latin American Bureau
- Anwar Shaikh, Professor, Department of Economics, The New School

**Round-table discussion**

**3.30pm - 4.00pm: Coffee break**

**4.00pm - 6.00pm: Session 3: US Relations with Progressive Regimes**

**Chair:** Margarita Gutman, Director Bicentennial Program OLA

**Presentation:** María Fernanda Espinosa, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

**Commentators:**

- Jaime Sorin, Dean of FADU-UBA and one of the founders of the Carta Abierta movement in Argentina
- José Luis Valdés Ugalde, Director, Center for Research on North America, UNAM, Mexico
- Federico Vázquez Calero, researcher-advisor, UNDP Regional Project on Political Analysis and Prospective Scenarios

**Round-table discussion**

**6.00pm-6.15pm: Closing remarks: Michael Cohen**

Simultaneous Translation will be provided

**Confirmed Special Guests:**

- Andrés Borthagaray, former Sub-Secretary of Decentralization and Transport, Government of the City of Buenos Aires
- José Luis Cancela, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations
- Claudio Costabel, Chief Advisor of Bloque del Encuentro por la Democracia y la Equidad, Santa Fe, Argentina.
- Adriana Lissidini, Consul of Uruguay in New York
- María Julia Reyna, Advisor, Special Projects Unit, Government of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina
- Min. Adriana Trotta, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Argentina in New York