

A Mexico Focus at the Woodrow Wilson Center

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The Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars has had since inception a particularly strong interest in Mexico. This is the case despite the Program's policy of not concentrating on any single Latin American country to the exclusion of others. The strength of the interest has been notably evident in the number and variety of Fellows and Guest Scholars who have been in residence at the Program since its inception in 1977. **Carlos Fuentes**, **Sergio Zermeno**, and **Olga Pellicer de Brody** are among the Mexicans who have carried out research in residence at the Wilson Center's "Castle" building on the Mall in Washington, D.C. **Wayne Cornelius**, **Anne Craig**, **John Purcell**, **Susan Kaufman Purcell**, **Clark Reynolds**, **Steven Sanderson**, and **Lawrence Whitehead** comprise the list of non-Mexican scholars who have focused their research on Mexico while working at the Wilson Center during recent years.

For 1984, a number of scholars have been invited to work on Mexico at the Center by its Director, **James Billington**. These are **Roderic Camp** of Central College (January to June), who will be writing on "Public-Private Interests: Entrepreneurs and the State in Twentieth Century Mexico," **Marcelo Carmagnani** of the University of Turin (May-August), "The Finances in the Central Government and the Formation of the Modern Mexican State, 1821-1910," and **Carlos Tello** of UNAM (February-April), on "Responses to the Current Crisis: Latin American Economies in the 1980s."

Wilson Center Fellows are appointed following an annual competition in which applicants are evaluated and recommended for fellowships by the Program's Academic Council of nine scholars from throughout the hemisphere. The Board Chairman is **William Glade** of the University of Texas. For 1983, its members have been **Albert Fishlow** (UCB), **Juan Linz** (Yale), **Leslie Manigat** (Simon Bolivar University, Caracas), **Guillermo O'Donnell** (Notre Dame, IVPERS, Rio de Janeiro, and CEDES, Buenos Aires), **Orrego Vicuña** (University of Chile), **Olga Pellicer de Brody** (COLMEX), **Thomas Skidmore** (Wisconsin), and **Mario Vargas Llosa** (Peru). Individuals wishing to apply for Wilson Center fellowships should send inquiries to the address listed at the end of this article.

A second area in which the Program's activities have reflected substantial Mexican interest has been publication. The Latin American Program has published, for the last five years, a Working Papers Series which has been distributed gratis to interested scholars. The first of these Working Papers, authored by John Purcell and Susan Kaufman Purcell, was published in 1978 and entitled "The Nature of the Mexican State." Subsequently, nine other Working Papers on Mexico have been published by the Center. They are Olga Pellicer de Brody's paper on the United States-Mexico relations; the **Richard R. Fagen** and **Henry Nau** discussion of the sale of Mexican gas to the United States; Thomas Skidmore's comparison of economic stabilization in Mexico with similar policies in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile;

Lawrence Whitehead's political evaluation of Mexico's 1976-1979 stabilization program, and his second study entitled "Why Mexico is Un governable- Almost; " **Steven Mumme's** analysis of U.S.-Mexican land and water disputes; **Kevin Middlebrook's** paper on political change in Mexico; **Douglas Bennett** and **Ken Sharpe's** paper on U.S.-Mexican automotive trade; and Sergio Zermeño's paper on the battle for hegemony between the privileged classes and the Mexican state. Scholars wishing to receive copies of these papers may do so by writing to the Program's Working Papers editor at the address stated below.

In 1983, the pace of Program activity on Mexico has intensified, in part due to the Mexican research interests of the Program's two new professional staff members, **Louis W. Goodman** (Acting Program Secretary) and **Richard A. Nuccio** (Program Associate). This emphasis was most evident in a conference on Mexico sponsored by the Program, PROFMEX, and the U.S.-Mexico Project of the Overseas Development Council which took place on February 11-13. This conference was a workshop on Mexico and U.S.-Mexican relations designed for congressional staff. Held in the midst of Washington's worst blizzard in many years, the conference, nevertheless, enjoyed the participation of over thirty congressional staffers. The staffers were briefed on Mexico's current economic crisis, trade relations between the United States and Mexico, Mexican migration, and Mexican foreign policy.



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Conference participants came from throughout the United States and Mexico and were able to have extensive contact with congressional staffers as well as interaction among themselves. These included Gerardo Bueno (COLMEX), Richard Day (Senate Judiciary Committee), Guy Erb (GFE Consultants), Margaret Daley Hayes (Senate Foreign Relations Committee), Steven Lande (Manchester Associates), Abraham F. Lowenthal (The Wilson Center), Lorenzo Meyer, (COLMEX), Clark Reynolds (Stanford), Jon Rosenbaum (Office of the United States Trade Representative), John Sewell (ODC), PROFMEX Coordinator Clint Smith (Stanford), and PROFMEX President James Wilkie (UCLA).

The Program's focus on Mexico is also buoyed by the research interests of its staff. Louis W. Goodman served from March 1980 to October 1982 as an advisor to the Sistema Alimentaria Mexicana (the Mexican food system.) In this capacity, he carried out research on the organization of international agribusiness industries, including improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural machinery, and breeding stock. This emphasis has continued in the research he is carrying out while on the Program staff. Goodman is currently completing a manuscript on the international improved seeds industry, its organization, and the development options it provides Third World countries.

Richard A. Nuccio served in 1981 as a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the Centro de Investigación y Docencias Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico. During that time, he carried out research on U.S.- Mexican relations and continues, at the Wilson Center, his interest in the evolution of U.S. trade policy toward Mexico. Nuccio's focus on Mexico was also important for the country risk analysis he carried out while working in 1981 and 1982 on the staff of International Business-Government Counsellors in Washington.

In the coming year, the Wilson Center Latin American Program hopes to concentrate its work on key issues relating to Mexican affairs. In its scholarly programs, it anticipates an emphasis on development problems in Mexico. In its public affairs work, the Program will strive to bring scholars together with policy makers and representatives of the private sector to enhance a broad-gauged understanding of Mexican issues among a diverse and influential community. In these activities, the Program anticipates active participation with PROFMEX through the service on PROFMEX's Board of Directors of its Program Secretary.

Individuals wishing additional information about the Wilson Center Latin American Program should write: Louis W. Goodman, Latin American Program, The Wilson Center, 1000 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C, 20560.