

Local Approaches to Addressing Crime and Violence in Latin America

Wednesday, March 8, 2017
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Woodrow Wilson Center
5th Floor Conference Room

Featured Speakers

Daniel Mejía Londoño is Secretary of Security for the city of Bogotá, Colombia, where he is in charge of security and justice policies. Before becoming Secretary of Security, Mejía Londoño was Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Director of the Research Center on Drugs and Security (CESED) at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. Prior to joining Universidad de los Andes, he worked as a researcher at the Central Bank of Colombia and Fedesarrollo. Mejía Londoño has been actively involved in a research agenda that seeks to provide independent economic evaluations of security and anti-drug policies implemented in Colombia. In 2008 he was awarded Fedesarrollos’s “Germán Botero de los Ríos” prize for economic research. Mejía Londoño has designed and evaluated different interventions aimed at reducing crime in cities such as Medellín, Bogotá, and Cali. Among these, Mejía Londoño designed (together with the National Police and the Ministry of Defense) a “hotspots” policing intervention in Medellín and carried out an independent evaluation of this intervention. He has also evaluated the effects of installing CCTV cameras on crime levels in Medellín and the effects of restricting alcohol sales on crime levels in Bogotá. Mejía Londoño is co-author with Alejandro Gaviria of the book *Políticas antidroga en Colombia: éxitos, fracasos y extravíos* (Universidad de los Andes, 2013). Between 2011 and 2012, Mejía Londoño was a member of the Advisory Commission on Criminal Policy, and more recently he was President of the Colombian Government’s Drug Policy Advisory Commission. In March 2015 he received the Juan Luis Londoño prize, awarded every other year to the best Colombian economist under 40. He received a B.A. and M.A. in Economics from Universidad de los Andes and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University.

Martin O’Malley served as the 47th Mayor of the city of Baltimore from 1999 until 2007. As Mayor, he introduced CitiStat, a performance-based management system that produced dramatic improvements in city services and efficiency, and today, serves as a model for cities across the world. O’Malley then served as the 61st governor of Maryland from 2007 to 2015. As Governor, he demonstrated results-driven leadership with the introduction of StateStat and BayStat, a system which has since inspired other systems, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s ChesapeakeStat program. Once called “the best manager in government today,” Governor O’Malley has been recognized for his skillful leadership of Maryland and his success in implementing critical progressive priorities such as raising the minimum wage, signing marriage equality into law, abolishing the death penalty, and passing the DREAM Act to provide in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants. During his two terms, he recovered 100 percent of the jobs lost during the recession by investing in education and infrastructure. Under his leadership, for the first time, Maryland’s public schools were ranked #1 nationally for five years in a row and the state was ranked #1 in median family income. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also named Maryland #1 in entrepreneurship and innovation for three years in a row. He was awarded the Innovations in Government Award from the Harvard Kennedy School, and in 2009, *Governing Magazine* named O’Malley Public Official of the Year for his ability to “improve performance by measuring what [states] do and relentlessly monitoring their progress.”

Panelists

Jorge Srur is Principal Executive of Institutional Development for the CAF-Latin American Development Bank, where he focuses on citizen security. Between 2009 and 2016, he was Senior Consultant on Modernization of the State for the Inter-American Development Bank, where he coordinated the regional program for the standardization of criminal statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, for which he received the 2013 Ortiz Mena Prize. Between 1997 and 2003, he was Undersecretary of Coordination and Innovation for the Ministry of Justice, Security, and Human Rights of the government of Argentina, as well as Head of the Civilian Administration of Security Forces, where he carried out a variety of executive functions in various ministries at the national, regional, and local levels. He was also elected as a legislator for the city of Buenos Aires. Srur is the author and co-author of various books and publications on public policy, corruption, and citizen security. Currently, he is a professor at the Universidad Católica de Córdoba, founder and editor of the magazine *Gobierno Digital*, and member of the Eisenhower Fellowship exchange program since 2008.

Lucía Dammert is Associate Professor at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile and a Global Fellow with the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson Center. She has both academic and public policy experience throughout Latin America. At the academic level, she has done research at different universities in Argentina and Chile. In Argentina, Dammert was an Associate Researcher at the Center for Security and Society at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín and Academic Coordinator at the Universidad Empresarial Siglo XXI in Córdoba. In Chile, she directed the “Civil Society and Security” area of the Center for Citizen Security Studies at the University of Chile and the Security and Citizenship Program at FLACSO-Chile. At the public policy level, she has held key advisory positions, including Advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Public Works of the Province of Mendoza, Argentina, and Consultant to the Citizen Security and Public Policy Division of the Ministry of the Interior in Argentina. In Chile, she served as Regional Coordinator for the Government of Santiago and as an advisor to the Citizen Security Division of the Ministry of the Interior in Chile. She was a senior advisor to the Secretary of Public Security of Mexico and the Department of Public Security of the Organization of American States. She has consulted for the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, and the European Commission, on countries such as Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

Introductory Remarks

Cynthia Arnson is Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center. She is a widely-recognized expert on Latin American politics, political economy, and international relations, including U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere. She is editor of *In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict in Latin America* (Stanford, 2012); co-editor of *Latin American Populism in the Twenty-First Century* (Johns Hopkins, 2013); and author of *Crossroads: Congress, the President, and Central America, 1976–1993* (Penn State, 2d edition, 1993), among other publications. Arnson is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, the Spanish-language edition of the distinguished journal *Foreign Affairs*. She is also a member of the advisory boards of the Social Science Research Council’s Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), and Human Rights Watch/Americas.

Christian Asinelli is Director of Institutional Development for the CAF-Latin American Development Bank. Asinelli has held various positions in the executive and legislative branches in Argentina. He has previously served as Undersecretary for the Evaluation of Externally Financed Projects with the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers of Argentina; Deputy of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires; and Alternate

National Director of the State Modernization Project for the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers. He has also been active in the leadership of the Partido Justicialista of Buenos Aires. Asinelli holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the Universidad Católica de Argentina, a postgraduate degree in Urban Economics from the Torcuato Di Tella University, and a graduate degree in Administration and Public Policy at the Universidad de San Andrés. He is in the process of completing his doctoral thesis in Political Science at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín. Asinelli is the author of the books *Buenos Aires: The City We Have*, *The City We Want* and *The Modernization of the Argentine State*. In the past, he has been a Hubert Humphrey Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow.

Moderator

Eric L. Olson is Associate Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center. His research and writing has focused on security issues and the impacts of crime, organized crime, and violence on democracies. He has also written about reform of police and judicial institutions as a vehicle for addressing the problem of expanding crime in the Americas. Among his most recent publications are, “Crime and Violence in Central America’s Northern Triangle: How U.S. Policy is Helping, Hurting, and Can Be Improved.” Prior to joining the Wilson Center, he was a Senior Specialist in the Department for Promotion of Good Governance at the Organization of American States from 2006–2007. He served as Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International USA from 2002–2006. Prior to Amnesty, he was the Senior Associate for Mexico, and Economic Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America for eight years. He worked at Augsburg College’s Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico from 1989–1993 where he was the program director. From 1986 to 1988, he worked in Honduras as a development specialist for several local non-governmental organizations. He has an M.A. in International Affairs from the School of International Service at American University, Washington, D.C.