



Ongoing Crisis in Venezuela: Political and Economic Dimensions

Thursday, October 6, 2016
9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Woodrow Wilson Center
5th Floor Conference Room

Speaker Biographies

Ruth Krivoy is President of Síntesis Financiera, a Caracas-based consulting firm affiliated with GlobalSource Partners, a global network of independent emerging market economists. She was President of the Central Bank of Venezuela (1992–1994) and served official commissions on public sector foreign debt restructuring, fiscal reform, state reform, and industrial competitiveness. She held leading positions in Venezuelan banks and served as member of the board of directors and head of the audit committee in C.A. Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela (Verizon’s operation in Venezuela). She served as Vice-Chair of the Toronto International Leadership Center for Financial Supervision and Chair of the Center’s Bank Advisory Committee. She is founding member and past chairperson of the Latin American Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee. She serves as consultant to multilateral institutions and emerging market governments on financial sector reform, crisis management, and contingency planning. Her book *Collapse: The Venezuelan Banking Crisis of 1994* (2001) was published by The Group of Thirty, Washington, DC; the Spanish edition (2003) was co-sponsored by the Andean Development Fund (CAF), The Group of Thirty, and the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA), Venezuela. Krivoy graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Economics from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Michael Penfold is Full Professor of Political Economy and Governance at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) Business and Public Policy School in Caracas as well as Visiting Professor at the Universidad de los Andes School of Government in Bogotá. He is also a Global Fellow of the Latin American Program, Woodrow Wilson Center. He is co-author, with Javier Corrales, of *Dragon in the Tropics: Venezuela and the Legacy of Hugo Chávez* (Brookings Institution, 2015) now in its second edition and selected as a Best Book for the Western Hemisphere by *Foreign Affairs*. He is also author of *Dos Tradiciones, Un Conflicto: El Futuro de la Descentralización* (Random House, Mondadori, 2009). Penfold served as Director for Public Policy at the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) from 2009 to 2015, where he spearheaded the expansion of knowledge and technical assistance programs from five to sixteen countries throughout the region. He also was Executive Director for Venezuela’s Foreign Investment Agency (CONAPRI) between 1999 and 2004. Penfold has been a Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at Sciences Po in Paris and at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He was awarded a Tinker Fellowship to teach at the School for International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He has also been the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship. Penfold holds a PhD, MPhil, and MA from Columbia University, specializing in Comparative Politics and Political Economy of Development.

Michael McCarthy is a political scientist and consultant specializing in Latin America and U.S.-Latin American relations. He is a Research Fellow at the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Professorial Lecturer at George Washington University's Elliot School for International Studies. He is the international associate for Venebarómetro Polling and the founder and director of Caracas Wire, a political risk service. His research focuses on questions of democratization, populism, elections, strategic governance responses to economic booms, and media balance and bias. He received his PhD in political science from Johns Hopkins University and consulted as a Senior Analyst for the Carter Center's Venezuela Presidential Election Study Missions in 2012 and 2013 after holding Fulbright and Inter-American Foundation Fellowships in Caracas. He graduated cum laude, in history and political science, from Bates College.

Moderator

Cynthia Arnson is Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is a widely-recognized expert on Latin American politics and international relations, including U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere. She is co-editor (with Jorge Heine) of *Reaching Across the Pacific: Latin America and Asia in the New Century* (Wilson Center, 2014); and co-editor (with Carlos de la Torre) of *Latin American Populism of the Twenty-First Century* (Johns Hopkins, 2013), 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, where she served as Associate Director from 1990–1994. Arnson served as an assistant professor of international relations at American University's School of International Service from 1989 to 1991. As a foreign policy aide in the House of Representatives during the Carter and Reagan administrations, she participated in the national debates over U.S. policy and human rights in Central and South America. Arnson graduated magna cum laude from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and has an MA and PhD in international relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.