



UNIVERSITY of DELAWARE



Julio Carrion, associate professor of political science and international relations

Teaching in Sal

UD expert on Latin present research in

10:17 a.m., Feb. 24, 2012
more on Latin America
rising tensions over the
presidential election in

As a specialist in public
America, Julio Carrion,
international relations a
travels to Central and S
often is consulted by nat
Journal, Bloomberg Ne

Last month, however, Carrion flew east across the Atlantic to deliver a special short course on public opinion and doctoral students at the University of Salamanca, the oldest university in Spain.

Carrion's course was selected in a public competition in which professors from around the world applied to the University of Salamanca to offer short-term courses relevant to the education of students interested in public opinion.

Carrion covered existing theories and the state of the art in the study of public opinion in Latin America, as well as those of other authors.

"There is a growing realization that the analysis and understanding of public opinion will shed significant light on the recent developments in the region, such as the emergence of populism," Carrion said, referring to a leading trend in Latin America appealing to the masses through an "us" (ordinary people) versus "them" (the elite) discourse.

Populism, warlordism and the temptation of military dictatorship are problems that currently we face in Latin America. Public opinion, broadly considered, has not yet become a key topic of research for those who study the region.

"While each country in Latin America faces its own troubles and challenges, the region as a whole faces a common one, the most important of which seems to be the sensation that crime has gotten out of control," Carrion said. "The 'everything goes' in combating it, increasing public support for authoritarian practices."

While Carrión's visit was arranged before the creation of the new Center for Global and Area Studies Arts and Sciences, the experience represents the kind of research and academic outreach the center focuses on global and international issues.

Carrión established important contacts with faculty and administrators at the University of Salamanca. He and his colleagues also plan to meet in Quito, Ecuador, this June, during the VI Congress of the Americas in Science, to discuss future collaboration.

To see an interview with Carrión (in Spanish) by the University of Salamanca, visit this website. [Cadena SER Radio](#), a radio station in Salamanca.

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