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## **AmericasBarometer 2012: Startup Conference**

**& the Miami Consortium for Latin American  
and Caribbean Studies Conference on  
Marginalization in the Americas**

FINAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

October 27-29, 2011

Westin Colonnade Hotel, Coral Gables, Florida  
and the University of Miami, Miami, Florida

# Important Note about the 2012 AmericasBarometer Startup Conference

## Review of Past Conferences

As we launch the next round of the AmericasBarometer, we look back with both reflection and great pride on the trajectory of the past eight years. Thanks in large part to the efforts of all of you, our collective venture keeps getting better. Some of these changes are visible in raw numbers: the expansion from eight countries in 2004 to 26 in 2010; the 43,990 interviews we conducted in our 2010 round; the unprecedented number of papers, dissertations and theses, books, and *Insights* reports that have been written with AmericasBarometer data; the dramatic growth in the size of the LAPOP team and the innumerable newspaper, radio and TV stories about our work. But some of the changes are less readily quantified: the constant improvement in the quality of our human capital; the increasing sophistication of our measurement, analysis, and reporting of results; the sense that as our network grows, we have increasing reach and impact within both the policymaking and academic communities.

We are committed to making this round the most methodologically sophisticated, the most informative for the policymaking and academic communities, and the most smoothly functioning yet. This conference launches that effort. We are excited that this year we will have new partners in the conference. The Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a joint project of the University of Miami and Florida International University, will host a half-day academic-style conference on Friday morning to launch our planning endeavors. This conference is focused on the main theme for 2012 and is designed in part to help our research team focus on the major questions for the 2012 round. At the same time, it will help us look back at 2010 and remind us what we have learned. With this conference we are establishing an important “footprint” in the Miami area, a city that has an exceptionally strong network of Latin Americanists and leaders in the business community, and more connections to Latin America than almost any city in the U.S. This half-day session will be open to members of the Miami-area business and policy community, which we hope will further disseminate the research of LAPOP.

As we prepared for the fifth biennial AmericasBarometer startup conference, we both sought and were offered feedback from past participants. Based on this feedback, we have taken the time to reflect seriously on what we have done well and where we need to improve. We are pleased by the positive comments we have received, but we have been especially attentive to those who have asked for change.

As in years past, the conference will reflect the continual evolution in our efforts to produce the highest quality, most useful and relevant hemisphere-wide data set of public opinion. In the early conferences we had many basic issues to solve, including questionnaire design, specialized modules, sample design, informed consent and the use of statistical packages. As we have grown in sophistication our agenda at the conference has evolved; today it is no longer necessary to spend time reviewing the standard STATA commands we use in our basic analysis, for example, nor is it necessary to debate the format of the country reports. Ever since the 2008 round, where we

agreed upon the “Jorge Vargas format,” we have accepted and implemented a successful formula for the design of those reports.

We should remind everyone that the Jorge Vargas format mandates a three-part volume for each country study. Part I covers the overarching theme for the year, emphasizing cross-national comparisons. Part II deals with the “LAPOP traditional topics” such as support for democracy, system support, tolerance, rule of law, crime, corruption, etc. In Part II, each country presents its own time-series data, but also includes an analysis of the way those key dependent variables differ based on the standard SES series, as well as by urbanization, regional strata, and other relevant variables. Finally, Part III is where each country team has full liberty to develop, in consultation with the local USAID DG officer and LAPOP Central, three specialized chapters particularly relevant for their own country.

The format has worked well for a number of reasons. First, the country reports now have considerable unity, making the series very attractive for those who would like to compare one country to another. Second, since LAPOP Central absorbs much of the burden of framing Parts I and II, the work load on the country teams is reduced. Central produces all of the comparative charts for both Parts I and II as well as much of the text and reference material for part I (Part II theory and reference material is found in prior reports). Third, we have uniformity of quality control. Finally, the work-load of LAPOP Central is reduced as well since once we produce the core material for Parts I and II, we do not have to recheck dozens of charts in each country report since we know they are right from the outset.

So, for all these reasons, we will retain the Vargas format for 2012, although we are always open to suggestions for modification and improvement.

Were there any downsides to the Vargas format in 2010 from which we can learn and improve? Based upon our own analysis and your input, we know that your central frustration from the 2010 round was the production of repeated updated versions of the outline. For 2012 we hope to do better, releasing to you, as early as possible, a version that has been checked more thoroughly than in 2010. We are dedicating a great deal of staff and graduate student time to producing the 2012 outline, and it should be a good one. Will it be perfect? No. All of us who have published articles and books know that perfection is an elusive goal; readers, editors and reviewers will almost always find problems missed by the authors. So, we will continue to welcome your eagle-eye corrections, including disagreements with our translations into/from Spanish/English. We will take note of the errors you uncover, as we did in the 2010 round, and maintain an extensive checklist that our graduate assistants will use in proofing each country report. This process of proofing the reports at LAPOP Central will be coordinated by Fernanda Boidi, and our goal will be to have only her (or, when necessary, other LAPOP staff) contact teams with respect to the editing process. In other words, we will try to avoid having LAPOP research assistants make direct contact with the teams, which became a problem for some country teams in the last round.

## The 2012 Startup Approach

For the 2012 startup we want to capitalize on the investments in human capital and organization that we have made over the years. Many of the substantive issues and puzzles that occupied our attention in the early years of the AmericasBarometer have been resolved, and the overall quality of our country teams has never been higher. It is time to move ahead to resolve what we at LAPOP Central to consider the biggest challenges we face as we approach the 2012 round. These are:

1. Developing state of the art survey measures and analytical strategies to understand and describe the extent and consequences of marginalization and discrimination in the Americas.
2. Enhancing the effectiveness of our dissemination and increasing the public policy utility of our research.
3. Deepening our understanding of the impact of context on citizen attitudes and behaviors in the Americas.

The three challenges are very different from each other. The first is primarily an academic issue, though one that clearly has profound implications for the policy-making community. The second is largely pedagogical—how can we become more effective teachers and communicators of our research? The third is largely technical, indeed a high-tech issue, pushing and extending the frontiers of knowledge that have been made available through the very existence of the AmericasBarometer data sets.

### ***Developing state of the art survey measures and analytical strategies to understand and describe the extent and consequences of marginalization and discrimination in the Americas***

After much discussion, marginalization and discrimination in the Americas has been chosen as the theme for the AmericasBarometer's 2012 round. LAPOP Central has been hard at work seeking to understand these issues for many months now, consulting both the literature and experts in the field. We have developed many new measures that we are excited about deploying across the Americas, and we are in the process of developing the outline of the country reports. As in previous years, we will devote important time during the conference to discussing the questionnaire and outline, though we will avoid detailed discussion of the overall format of the reports.

A more innovative component of the 2012 conference is that this year for the first time, we will collectively engage the academic issues involved in the study of marginalization and discrimination through a half-day public, academic-style conference. Four papers from members of the LAPOP country teams will grapple with various facets of this complex topic, using data from previous rounds of the AmericasBarometer. We will also have a paper from the winner of the first LAPOP Best Paper Award, which will be given to the best paper on discrimination and marginalization from among our current round of Small Grants recipients. This conference will be hosted by the Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a joint venture of the University of Miami and Florida International University, and it will be open to students and academics in the region, as well as members of the Miami-area business and policy communities.

### ***Enhancing the effectiveness of our dissemination and increasing the public policy utility of our research***

In the 2012 startup conference we want to harvest some of the lessons we have learned from the 2010 round of dissemination. We now have new models of dissemination that we can add to our traditional models. We would like to present these new models to the group, and for there to ensue an open discussion as to how we can use those to create templates for teams to follow in 2012.

### ***Deepening our understanding of the impact of context on citizen attitudes and behaviors in the Americas***

The 2010 round has demonstrated the importance of *national* context in explaining many of our key dependent variables. Yet, we have made only limited use of the opportunities within our data to explore the way many of the processes in which we are interested vary across *subnational* contexts. One reason for this is that most of our standard samples are not especially useful for establishing contextual effects. For this reason we have been hard at work redesigning the 2012 round of sample designs so that more countries will be able to provide appropriate data for studying subnational context. In the Startup Conference we will dedicate time so that all country teams can become familiar with the core concepts behind our design for measuring subnational context and how that has affected our redesign of the samples. We will then illustrate the power of subnational context analysis with some research carried out by members of the research team. Finally, we will use a breakout session to enable groups of researchers to discuss ways in which their 2012 reports could produce academically and policy-useful findings via multi-level analysis of national data sets.

We present below the schedule for the conference, and we ask you to keep the above discussion in mind as you read through the program.

## Conference Agenda

<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Thursday October 27, 2011</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Westin Colonnade Hotel</i></p>	
Afternoon-evening	Arrival/check-in
8:00 – 9:00 pm	<p><b>Reception</b> for all participants hosted by Vanderbilt</p> <p>Snacks, wine and beer courtesy of Vanderbilt University; <b>open bar until 9</b></p> <p>Location: Pool Deck (Colonnade Ballroom in case of bad weather)</p>

<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Friday October 28, 2011</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Public Conference</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Marginalization in the Americas:</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Perspectives from the AmericasBarometer</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>University of Miami, Newman Alumni Center</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">6200 San Amaro Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33146</p>	
7:00 – 7:30 AM	<b>Breakfast.</b> Location: Colonnade Ballroom Foyer
7:30 AM	<p><b>Shuttle to University of Miami</b></p> <p>Meet in lobby of the Westin Colonnade sharply at 7:30 AM for the shuttle bus to the University of Miami</p>
7:45 – 8:15 AM	<p><b>Continental Breakfast for Miami-Area Conference Attendees</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast is hosted by the University of Miami</b></p>
8:15 – 8:30 AM	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ariel Armony, Director Center for Latin American Studies and Weeks Professor in Latin American Studies, University of Miami</li> <li>• Dr. Cristina Eguizábal, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC), Florida International University</li> <li>• Dr. Liz Zechmeister, Associate Director of LAPOP and Associate Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University</li> </ul>
8:30 – 9:00 AM	<p><b>The AmericasBarometer Data Sets as a Resource for Research on the Americas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Mitchell A. Seligson, Director of LAPOP and Centennial Professor of Political Science and Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University</li> </ul>

9:00 – 10:30 AM	<p><b>Session 1</b>  <i>Chair:</i> Dr. Ariel Armony  <i>Paper 1:</i> Presentation by Dr. Edward Telles, Professor, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, with Rene Flores (Princeton University) and Fernando Urrea (Universidad del Valle): <i>Ethnoracial and Skin Color Inequality and Discrimination in Latin America</i></p> <p><b>Presentation of LAPOP Best Paper Award by Liz Zechmeister</b>  <i>Paper 2:</i> Presentation by Leslie Schwindt-Bayer, Associate Professor, University of Missouri, and Recipient of LAPOP Best Paper Award: <i>Gender Quotas and Women's Political Participation in Latin America</i></p> <p><i>Paper 3:</i> Presentation by Dr. Jana Morgan, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee: <i>Gendering Democratic Values: Latin American Attitudes toward Women in Politics</i>  <i>Discussant:</i> Dr. Maria Aysa-Lastra, Assistant Professor in Global and Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University</p>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
10:45 AM – 12:00 noon	<p><b>Session 2</b>  <i>Chair:</i> Dr. Cristina Eguizábal  <i>Paper 1:</i> Presentation by Dr. Daniel Moreno Morales, Research Fellow at Ciudadanía, Bolivia, and Bolivia Team Leader: <i>The Social Determinants and Political Consequences of Discrimination in Latin America</i>  <i>Paper 2:</i> Presentation by Drs. María Fernanda Boidi, Coordinator of Fieldwork Operations at LAPOP; and Barry S. Levitt, Assistant Professor, Florida International University: <i>At the Margins of Representation: Discrimination and Support for Democratic Institutions in the Americas</i>  <i>Paper 3:</i> Presentation by Dr. Julio F. Carrión, Associate Professor, University of Delaware and Peru Team Co-Leader; and Patricia Zárate, Research Fellow, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos and Peru Team Co-Leader: <i>Does Gender and Racial Discrimination Erode Support for Democracy in the Central Andes? Evidence from the AmericasBarometer</i>  <i>Discussant:</i> Dr. William C. Smith, Professor of International Studies and Editor, <i>Latin American Politics and Society</i>, University of Miami</p>
12:00 noon	<p><b>Public Conference Ends</b></p>
12:15 PM	<p><b>Shuttle for LAPOP and USAID Participants and Other Invited Conference Observers to the Westin Colonnade Hotel</b></p>

Friday October 28, 2011

*Westin Colonnade Hotel*

*Location: Colonnade Ballroom (except where noted)*

12:45 – 1:45 PM	<b>Lunch.</b> Location: Merrick 1
1:45 – 2:00 PM	<b>Welcome to the Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Amy Erica Smith, LAPOP Program Coordinator and manager of the 2012 AmericasBarometer survey questionnaire and country report outline</li></ul>
2:00 – 2:45 PM	<b>The Washington Perspective and the Utility of the DIMS Surveys for USAID Democracy and Governance Programming</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eric Kite, Team Leader, Democracy and Human Rights, USAID/Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean</li><li>• Vanessa Reilly, Democracy Specialist, USAID/Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean</li></ul>
2:45 – 3:30 PM	<b>The 2012 Theme: Marginalization in the Americas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Amy Erica Smith and Dr. Jana Morgan on discrimination items</li><li>• Dr. Liz Zechmeister on other items</li></ul>
3:30 – 3:45 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>
3:45 – 5:15 PM	<b>Roundtable Discussion: New Models of Dissemination</b> Chair: Dr. Karen Hilliard, USAID Jamaica Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Karen Hilliard and Ruth Chisholm, USAID Jamaica</li><li>• Dr. Germán Lodola, Professor, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Argentina, Argentina Team Co-Leader</li><li>• Dr. Rosario Queirolo, Professor, Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay Team Co-Leader</li><li>• Patricia Zárate</li></ul>
5:15 PM	<b>Adjourn</b> Dinner on your own. Country teams, DG officers, and other collaborators are encouraged to meet and to continue the discussion.

Saturday October 29, 2011

Westin Colonnade Hotel

Location: Colonnade Ballroom (except where noted)

7:00 – 8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast.</b> Location: Colonnade Ballroom Foyer
8:15 – 9:45 AM	<b>Review of Results from Special Studies</b> <b><u>Violence Mitigation Studies:</u></b> Drs. Abby Córdova, Post-doctoral Fellow & Director of Field Experiment Research, LAPOP; Susan Berk-Seligson, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University; and Orlando J. Pérez, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Central Michigan University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>CARSI Violence Prevention Impact Evaluation</i></li><li>• <i>CARSI Honduras</i></li><li>• <i>Cobán Project, Guatemala</i></li><li>• <i>Panama Darien Gap Study</i></li></ul> <b><u>Earthquake Studies:</u></b> Dominique Zéphyr and Dr. Liz Zechmeister <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Haiti post-earthquake</i></li><li>• <i>Chile post-earthquake survey</i></li></ul> <b><u>Municipal Studies:</u></b> Luz Marina García, USAID Nicaragua <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Haiti Municipal Special Sample</i></li><li>• <i>Peru AED Voting Study</i></li><li>• <i>Nicaragua Municipal Study</i></li></ul> <b><u>Other Studies:</u></b> Dr. Miguel García, Professor, Universidad de los Andes; and Dr. Juan Pablo Luna, Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Study of Afro-Colombians</li><li>• Chilean Special Sample on Discrimination and Stateness</li></ul> <i>Chair and Discussant:</i> Dr. Margaret Sarles
9:45 – 10:15 AM	<b>Review of Schedule and Deadlines for the 2012 Round; New Elements of Contracts; Writing Insights Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Liz Zechmeister</li></ul>
10:15 – 10:30 AM	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:30 – 11:15 AM	<b>Educating the Media</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Mitch Seligson: <i>Guidelines for Reporting Results to the Press, the Problem of Means vs. Percents, and Preparing for Crisis Events</i></li><li>• Dr. Daniel Moreno: <i>Using “ATLAS” to Present LAPOP Data</i></li></ul> <i>Chair:</i> Juan Carlos Rodríguez Raga

<b>Track 1: Country Teams</b>	11:15 – 11:45 AM	<p><b>Review of Major Elements in Training Interviewers</b></p> <p>Location: Colonnade Ballroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Fernanda Boidi (via Skype)</li> <li>• Dr. Abby Córdova</li> </ul>
	11:45 – 12:00 noon	<p><b>A. Human Subjects Protection: New 2012 Procedures under the “Coordinating Center” Rubric</b></p> <p>Location: Colonnade Ballroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of IRB approval of survey</li> <li>• Review of informed consent form</li> <li>• Confidentiality issues</li> <li>• Importance of “deidentification” of responses and dissemination of data set</li> <li>• Recertification of IRB tests</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Data Falsification Detection and Penalties</b></p> <p><b>C. New Security Plans</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mitch Seligson</p>
<b>Track 2: USAID</b>	11:15 – 12:00	<p><b>USAID DG Officers Meet</b></p> <p>Location: Segovia Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitch Seligson and Dominique Zephyr will briefly present on new sample designs and municipal data</li> <li>• <b>USAID Washington will determine the remainder of the agenda</b></li> </ul>
	12:00 – 1:15 PM	<p><b>Working Lunch.</b> Location: Merrick 1</p> <p>Country teams meet with DG staff from their respective countries and/or with Washington staff to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country-specific questionnaire items</li> <li>• Expectations for dissemination</li> </ul>

<b>Track 1: Country Teams</b>	1:15 – 1:45 PM	<b>Q&amp;A Session: New Sample Designs at the Municipal/Cantonal Level</b> Location: Colonnade Ballroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominique Zéphyr and Dr. Luis Rosero, Universidad de Costa Rica, CCP</li> </ul>
	1:45 – 2:15 PM	<b>New Programming for STATA 10/12: Interpreting New Graphs of Predicted Probabilities</b> Location: Colonnade Ballroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominique Zéphyr</li> </ul>
	2:15 – 3:00 PM	<b>Principles and Practice of Multi-Level Analysis</b> Location: Colonnade Ballroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Daniel Montalvo: <i>Principles of Multi-Level Analysis</i></li> <li>• Dominique Zéphyr: <i>LAPOP Commands for Multi-Level Analysis</i></li> </ul>
	3:00 – 3:15 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	3:15 – 4:00 PM	<b>Examples of Sub-National Multi-Level Analysis</b> Location: Colonnade Ballroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Abby Córdova: <i>How Cantonal Inequality Impacts Interpersonal Trust</i></li> <li>• Dr. Miguel García, Professor, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia: <i>Modeling Political Opinions and Behaviors Using Multi-Level Analysis</i></li> </ul> <i>Chair and Discussant:</i> Dr. Daniel Montalvo 15 minute question and answer period
<b>Track 2: USAID Personnel</b>	1:15 – 3:00 PM	<b>Using the AB and LAPOP to Inform DG Programming and Policy</b> Location: Segovia Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USAID personnel will present; roundtable discussion</li> <li>• <b>USAID Washington will determine the agenda</b></li> </ul>
	3:00 – 3:15 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	3:15 – 4:00 PM	<b>Using the AB and LAPOP as a Tool for non-DG Offices within Missions</b> Location: Segovia Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USAID personnel will present; roundtable discussion</li> <li>• <b>USAID Washington will determine the agenda</b></li> </ul>

4:00 – 5:00 PM	<p><b>Breakout Panels: Selecting Topics for Part 3: Suggestions for Multi-Level Analysis and Other Part 3 Chapter Topics</b></p> <p>Location: Segovia and Balboa rooms</p> <p>Breakout Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protest</li> <li>• Parties, Electoral Behavior, and Ideology</li> <li>• Role of the State</li> <li>• Attitudes towards the Military</li> <li>• Discrimination and Representation</li> <li>• Attitudes towards Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• Public Opinion towards and Effects of Inequality</li> <li>• Political Knowledge</li> </ul>
5:00 – 6:00 PM	<p><b>Breakout Panels Report to Plenary and Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Co-Chairs:</i> Eric Kite, USAID, and Dr. Juan Pablo Luna, Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Chile</p>
6:00 PM	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Dinner on your own. Country teams, DG officers, and other collaborators are encouraged to meet and to continue the discussion.</p>

<p><b>Sunday October 30, 2011</b></p> <p><i>Westin Colonnade Hotel</i></p>	
7:00 – 8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast.</b> Location: Balboa
Morning-afternoon	<p><b>Check-out and depart for Miami International Airport</b>, return to cities of origin.</p> <p><i>Note: Group transportation in vans has been organized for LAPOP participants. A full schedule, based on flight times, will be distributed. If you decide not to use the van service, please notify us. If you take a private taxi instead of the van, LAPOP cannot reimburse you for that cost.</i></p>