COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS SANTIAGO

• Message from Lee C. Bollinger
• Our Team
• 2021 in Numbers

CHILE & PERU

• The Constituent Process and Presidential Elections
• Chile Celebrates the Legalization of Same Sex Marriage
• Constitutodos: Promoting Civic Education and Participation
• Driving Environmental Stewardship and Awareness
• Extending our Reach: Peru
• Special Commemorations

BRINGING COLUMBIA TO LATIN AMERICA

• The Faces of ILAS
• The Future of Journalism
• Partnership with CGEP
• The United States According to Hitchcock
• Congress of the Future: Dealing with Uncertainty

PARTNERSHIPS

• The MOU Between Mailman and CISS
STUDENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

• Virtual Internships
• Columbia Alumni Association of Chile
• Partnership with CBS Alumni Club Chile
• Foro Columbia-Chile

OUR FOOTPRINT

• Book Launches
• Social Media Presence
• Events 2021

STAKEHOLDERS

• Advisory Board
• Faculty Advisory Committee
• Partners
1.
Columbia Global Centers Santiago
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our network of Global Centers has become central to the University’s teaching, research, and scholarship. The Centers afford students and faculty the opportunity to engage with the people and ideas shaping the modern world, at a moment when that need could not be more urgent. And when they return to our home campuses, those who have traveled abroad play an essential role in broadening the intellectual outlook of all of us. It is simply a fact that we would not be the same institution without the Global Centers.

LEE C. BOLLINGER
President,
Columbia University
In the national context, following the October 2020 plebiscite, where 78% of voters approved the writing of a new national charter, in May the highly anticipated election of constituents to the Constitutional Convention took place. Those elected would be in charge of drafting a new democratic constitution in a process ignited by popular demands that brought the country to the streets in 2019. In partnership with the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), and in one of the most viewed videos on the Center’s YouTube channel, the day after the election the Santiago Center hosted a webinar with experts to evaluate the results of the election and see what messages could be garnered from this historic event, which implied a significant rearrangement of the Chilean political system. The majority of those elected were independent candidates, while the main center-left alliance finished in fourth place and the right-wing was unable to reach the third of members needed to hold veto power in the constitutional convention.

In another historical moment, Chile elected its youngest ever president, Gabriel Boric, who won the election at 35 years old and took office at 36. In the Santiago Center’s most watched video on YouTube in 2021, once again carried out with ILAS, one day after Chile’s first-round presidential election, experts analyzed how the results - which led to a polarized runoff election between relative newcomers from the left and the right - would impact the future political scenario, and its implications for political representation and social discontent.

While the second year of the Coronavirus kept Chile mostly indoors, in 2021 the Santiago Center powered on from the home office, with daily Zoom meetings, online programming and webinars to address not only existing stakeholders, but to expand its reach to new and non-traditional public. All of this within the context of a year that saw many changes that beseeched taking a deeper look and providing a forum for further discussion.
But the Santiago Center did not limit itself to stay within Chile’s borders. In a move that looked to engage alumni, students and other stakeholders from Peru, events were held in partnership with alumni clubs from that country. To begin with, mere days before Peru’s presidential runoff election, the Santiago Center joined the Business Alumni Club Peru, the Jerome A. Chazen Institute for Global Business, and the Columbia Latin America Business Association in sponsoring a panel discussion regarding the country’s economic outlook and international perspectives with respect to the polarized June election between Luis Castillo of the left leaning Perú Libre party and Keiko Fujimori from the right-wing Fuerza Popular. That was followed by the event “Peru at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. Playground: Artifacts for Interaction,” co-hosted by the Columbia Alumni Association of Peru and the Santiago Center, which raised the issue of how fences and gates have become ubiquitous throughout the country, appropriating public spaces, and what can be done to rectify the situation.

Neither did the Santiago Center limit itself to events. Looking to take an active role regarding the dissemination and knowledge of Chile’s aforementioned Constitutional Convention, the Center teamed up with NGOs Momento Constituyente and Pop Juegos in the design, production and distribution of “ConstituTodos” (a combination in Spanish of “Constitution” and “Everybody”) - an innovative board game that aims to provide information, drive citizenship education and promote civic dialogue about Chile’s ongoing constitutional reform process.

The game was officially launched at the Instituto Cumbre de Condores Oriente school in the Santiago borough of Renca. During the event, Renca Mayor Claudio Castro and the radio and television sports commentator, Felipe Bianchi, each led a team of four third-year high school students to compete in a friendly game of ConstituTodos. It was subsequently launched in the borough of Maipú, and the partners printed the board games to be distributed free of charge to different schools throughout the country.

The Santiago Center, in partnership with the Rio Center and ILAS, also researched, designed and published a media directory of Columbia experts on Latin America in a bid to provide a glimpse of Columbia’s valuable human resources. The directory, which features more than 300 Columbia faculty and alumni who have deep expertise on subjects ranging from global affairs to the environment and economics to public health, was researched by Columbia student Jennifer Su, who was one of the sixteen students participating in the Santiago Virtual Internship Program during the northern hemisphere summer. Finally, but certainly not least, the Santiago Center worked with Chilean journalist Muriel Alarcón (JN’20) to define and produce seven 3-minute videos featuring ILAS faculty members. The idea was to highlight the strong relationship between the Santiago Center and ILAS, looking to put a more human touch to some of the faculty members with whom the Center works. “Los Rostros de ILAS” (The Faces of ILAS) videos were broadcast in Spanish on the social media channels of the Santiago Center and ILAS, under the hashtag #RostrosDeILAS.

With Chile still grappling with national issues that will shape the country’s development for decades to come, while continuing to face a global crisis, the Center looks to promote civic culture, employing University resources and expertise to cultivate civic education in youth and the general public. Operating in association with colleagues in New York and with the international network of nine Global Centers, the Santiago Center proceeds to work on better engaging its audience, continually adjusting to a new normal and focusing on cooperation and shared solutions to create content and experiences around critical, timely concerns in bringing Columbia to the world and the world to Columbia.
OUR TEAM

KAREN PONIACHIK
Director

VIVIAN FOSK
Finance and Operations Manager

CHRISTIAN MOLINARI
Communications and Programming Officer

CARLA MAGRI
Communications and Programming Coordinator
In 2021, the Santiago Center organized and/or sponsored 43 programs, webinars and activities, with the participation of:

- **25** Columbia Experts
- **70** Non-Columbia Experts
- **13** Columbia Schools
- **34** Partners (Including government entities, universities, NGOs, trade associations and private companies)
- **6,000** Attendees
2.
Presidential Elections, Governance, and the Constituent Process in Chile
Evaluating the runoff election and its implications for the next government and Chile’s future.

Monday, December 20
3 PM NY, 5 PM Santiago

*The event will be held in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English.*
THE CONSTITUENT PROCESS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Two of the Santiago Center’s highest attended webinars, both carried out in conjunction with Columbia’s Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), had to do with politics.

Indeed, 2021 was an extremely active year when it came to Chile’s domestic affairs; citizens went to the polls to exercise their right to vote in seven different elections. Municipal elections, along with the election of regional governors and of the members of the constitutional convention, took place mid-May 2021. It was the latter, where elected representatives were charged with drafting a proposal for a new national charter, that drew the most attention.

With a moderate turnout of 43% of eligible voters, the surprising election outcome was a clear consequence of the social crisis that erupted in October 2019, which was the precursor to the October 2020 plebiscite wherein 78% of voters overwhelmingly approved the writing of a new national charter. In the 2021 elections, the constitutional convention’s winning candidates bore witness to a significant rearrangement of the Chilean political system: the majority of those elected were independent, while the main center-left alliance finished in fourth place and the right wing was unable to reach the third of members needed to hold veto power in the convention itself.

Just a day after that momentous occasion, the Santiago Center and ILAS hosted a webinar to discuss the unexpected results, in which the panelists commented on the turn towards the left in the composition of the convention and the clear weakening of the traditional party structure. Besides the high representation of independent candidates, other particularities of Chile’s constitutional convention included reserving 17 seats for indigenous groups and ensuring gender parity, a world first, providing for the election of a diverse group of people.

The assembly toiled for the remainder of the year and into the first half of 2022 to define the proposed new constitution, which will now be approved or rejected in a national referendum to be held in September.

The traditional political system being called into question was once again evident in Chile’s mid-December presidential election, pitting two non-traditional candidates against each other. With over 55% of the vote, 35-year-old Gabriel Boric of the left-leaning coalition Apruebo Dignidad won a resounding victory against José Antonio Kast of the right coalition Frente Social Cristiano, making Boric the youngest person in Chile’s history to be elected president.

And once more, the Santiago Center teamed up with ILAS to review the results with renowned political observers. Panelists commented on the highest voter turnout since the vote became voluntary, saying it was a sign of increasing democratic health. However, they warned that Boric will face challenging times considering that his government lacks a majority in congress and that it will also have to address the pandemic, an economic crisis (owing to both internal and external factors) and the constituent process.

The panelists agreed that in terms of values, Boric is highly synchronized with the times, taking on issues including feminism, diversity, indigenous peoples and the environment.
CHILE CELEBRATES THE LEGALIZATION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

On June 1, 2021, then-President Sebastián Piñera delivered the last state of the nation address of his administration, during which he stated he would seek to expedite a same-sex marriage bill that had been stalled in Congress since 2017.

Later that month, the Santiago Center joined with 30 other organizations grouped in the Chilean American Chamber of Commerce, AmCham Chile, in emitting a statement that was published in national press to support same-sex marriage. Part of that statement read:

As organizations that share similar values, and because we firmly believe that all human beings have the same rights, we say “I DO!” to same-sex marriage in Chile and invite more actors to join us in providing their support. Society and the economy are stronger when we put aside our differences and find strength in what brings us together.

After being approved by Congress, the bill was signed into law during a ceremony held on December 10. During the event, Piñera said that the new law “puts all relationships of love between two people on equal footing.”

In that light, the Santiago Center joined a group of 68 national and multinational organizations – under the coordination of Pride Connection Chile – to reassert its belief that diverse environments contribute to creating better societies, free of discrimination. With the approval of same-sex marriage, Chile took another step towards building a fairer and more inclusive country.
CELEBRAR QUE CHILE YA TIENE SU LEY DE MATRIMONIO IGUALITARIO
We believe that a more robust and legitimate democracy is only possible when each and every one of us is more attentive, informed and active, and with this board game we are looking to contribute towards this and ensure that we can all exercise our fundamental political rights.

RODRIGO MAYORGA (TC’20)
Director of Momento Constituyente
CONSTITUTODOS: PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

With the aim of encouraging citizenship participation and contributing towards building a stronger democracy, the Santiago Center teamed up with NGO Momento Constituyente and Pop Juegos to design, produce and distribute “ConstituTodos” (a combination in Spanish of “Constitution” and “Everybody”) - a civic education board game with 130 trivia questions, group challenges and other didactic tools, that seeks to provide information and promote dialogue about citizens’ rights and duties, Chile’s political history, the functioning of the democratic system, and the ongoing process to rewrite the constitution.

The game was officially launched in August in an activity held at a school in the Santiago borough of Renca that was attended by the Mayor Claudio Castro, the sports journalist Felipe Bianchi, high school students, and Rodrigo Mayorga (TC’20), director of Momento Constituyente. The following month, ConstituTodos was presented in Maipú, Chile’s second largest borough with a population of over 500,000. The event was organized by the municipality and was attended by Mayor Tomás Vodanovic, members of the Constitutional Convention, representatives of the city council, and eighty 7th and 8th grade students.

Since its launch, the board games have been distributed free of charge in schools and municipalities throughout the country, in organizations such as Hogar de Cristo, Democracia Viva, and Ahora nos Toca Participar, as well as among members of the Constitutional Convention and the Chilean Congress. Additionally, it can also be downloaded from Momento Constituyente’s website.
In a world that is ever changing due to climate change, environmental stewardship is an issue that increasingly deserves more worldwide attention. In 2021, the Santiago Center co-sponsored two contests that looked to increase children’s awareness of the importance of restoring ecological equilibrium.

After reviewing over 600 submissions from all over the country, the jury selected three winners and two honorable mentions in each of the contest’s two categories: 10-14 years old and 15-18 years old.

Then, in August through September, the Santiago Center partnered with Chile’s Ministry of the Environment to launch a contest for children to write short stories in Spanish that aim to drive environmental awareness around the issue of the circular economy.

The contest, entitled “Chile Circular sin Basura en 360 Palabras” (Circular Chile without Trash in 360 Words), awarded two winners in each of the three categories for girls and boys residing in Chile: 7-10 years old, 11-14 years old and 15-18 years old. Each category was named according to native species in Chile: Chungungo (marine otter), Chinchilla (chinchilla, a crepuscular rodent) and Lagarto Gruñidor (grunter lizard), respectively.
I was very surprised by the depth and content of the work, and, above all, by the empathy shown by the children in relating the environmental cause with their own surroundings.

PAMELA LÓPEZ (TC’11)
Judge, Director of Programming and Audiences at Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center (GAM)

Children can help to raise awareness of the worldwide environmental situation and mobilize adults to rethink their consumption habits and their relationship with the planet.

KAREN PONIACHIK
Director Columbia Global Centers | Santiago
The greatest danger from the economic point of view is losing our macro stability.

LILIANA ROJAS-SUÁREZ
Chair of the Latin American Committee on Macroeconomic and Financial Issues (CLAAF)

We need more spaces for integration than devices that exclude, and we have to reflect what the real cost is that this generates in the city and its residents. Public spaces are there for all citizens to sit together as equals.

FELIPE FERRER (GSAPP'05)
Peruvian architect
EXTENDING OUR REACH: PERU

With a clear mandate from both its Faculty Advisory Committee and the Advisory Board, in 2021 the Santiago Center sought to extend its reach beyond Chile. One of its main areas of focus was with Peru, with which it developed two distinct events.

In June, just four days ahead of Peru’s presidential election, the Santiago Center, along with the Business Alumni Club Peru, the Jerome A. Chazen Institute for Global Business, and the Columbia Latin America Business Association, held a panel to discuss the country’s economic outlook and share thoughts on international perspectives towards the polarized June 6 election between Luis Castillo (of the left leaning Perú Libre party) and Keiko Fujimori (from the right-wing Fuerza Popular).

Marlene Savarain (CBS’04), co-head of the Columbia Business School Alumni Club Peru and chair of the event, started by raising two key questions to panelists Jorge Mariscal, Adjunct Professor at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA); Liliana Rojas-Suárez, Chair of the Latin American Committee on Macroeconomic and Financial Issues (CLAAF); and Luis Oganes, Global Head of Emerging Markets Research for J.P. Morgan: How solid is the Peruvian economy? And how is the country perceived by the rest of the world?

Following a stimulating discussion, the economists agreed that regardless of the election result, maintaining the independence of Peru’s Central Bank will be key.

Then in October, the Santiago Center hosted an event together with the Columbia Alumni Association to review Peruvian architect and Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) alumnus Felipe Ferrer’s (GSAPP’05) exhibition at the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale. Ferrer’s “Playground, Artifacts for Interaction” was the winner of the Curatorial Competition held by The Cultural Patronage of Peru that aimed to shed light on how fences and gates shape residents’ understanding of and interaction in public spaces.

The pavilion itself featured a large gate hanging from a beam with a stop sign prominently displayed. On the other side of the gate, the different artifacts for interaction created from the material of removed gates were on display.

During the event, Mónica Belevan, editor of Covidian Æsthetics and designer of the Peru Pavilion’s catalogue, and Francisco Díaz (GSAPP’13), Universidad Católica de Chile Architecture professor, reflected on the issue of how fences and gates have become ubiquitous throughout the country, appropriating public spaces, and what can be done to rectify the situation. It was hosted by Carol Updegrave (GSAPP’87), president of Peru’s Alumni Association.
SPECIAL COMMENORATIONS
Some early champions of women’s rights managed to reach the most prestigious universities around the world. Columbia University became, for many such Chilean precursors of women’s rights, a gateway to accessing new horizons and expanding their political agenda, both through their initiative and political activism.

CLAUDIA HEISS (GSAS’03)
Director of the Political Science Department, Universidad de Chile

In the context of International Women’s Day 2021, the Santiago Center recognized three noteworthy Chilean Columbia alumnae for their professional development and contribution to society - the first recipients of this annual recognition. They are among the more than 300 Chilean women who have passed through the halls of Columbia in more than a century.

The three honorees: Isabel Aninat (LLM’13), Dean of Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez’s School of Law; Andrea Chignoli (CSA’07), award-winning film editor; and Ana Novik (SIPA’99), Head of the OECD’s Investment Division, were featured in El Mercurio, one of Chile’s most prestigious newspapers.

In commemoration of Women’s Day, Claudia Heiss (GSAS’03), Director of the Political Science Department at Universidad de Chile and a member of the Santiago Center Advisory Board, wrote about the consequential role that women who studied at Columbia have had in Chile’s feminist movement and educational reform process.
In the context of the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Santiago Center and security-focused NGO AthenaLab co-sponsored a webinar in which retired General James R. Clapper, US Director of National Intelligence under President Barack Obama, reviewed the successes and failures of the intelligence community.

During the event, Clapper stated that the September 11 attacks completely reorganized the intelligence community, allowing for the approval of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which established the position of Director of National Intelligence that serves as head of the intelligence community, ensuring closer coordination and integration of the 16 US intelligence agencies.

He also addressed more recent topics, such as the January 2021 attack on the US Capitol, security issues in a number of different countries, and the US pullout from Afghanistan.

"The goal of intelligence is to reduce uncertainty for decision makers, whether they are in the Oval Office at the White House or in an oval hole in a trench."

JAMES R. CLAPPER
Former US Director of National Intelligence
3.
Bringing Columbia to Latin America
THE FACES OF ILAS

In a multimedia endeavor to highlight key professors that are members of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) and who have worked closely with Columbia Global Centers | Santiago, the Center teamed up with Chilean journalist Muriel Alarcón (JN’20) to define, write and produce 3-minute videos featuring seven such faculty.

The videos provide a first-hand account of each faculty member’s life, offering a glimpse of their world behind the scenes: how and when they came to Columbia, what drives them, and tidbits of interesting personal and professional information, all within the backdrop of Columbia University in New York City.

“Los Rostros de ILAS” (The Faces of ILAS) videos were broadcast in Spanish once a week, every Wednesday beginning October 20, on the social media channels of the Santiago Center and ILAS, under the hashtag #LosRostrosDeILAS.

ILAS faculty member featured include Vicky Murillo, Director of ILAS and Professor of Political Science and International and Public Affairs; Elena Cabral, Assistant Dean of Academic Programs and Communications at the Journalism School; Nelson Fraiman, Professor of Operations and Technology Management at the Business School; Pablo Goldberg, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry; Nara Milanich, Professor of History at Barnard; Jorge Otero-Pailos, Professor and Director of Historic Preservation at GSAPP; and Richard Peña, Professor of Film Studies.

“

We wanted to highlight the strong relationship between the Santiago Center and ILAS, looking to put a more human touch to some of the faculty members with whom we work.

KAREN PONIACHIK
Director Columbia Global Centers | Santiago
Journalism and the professionalism of the practice has been a key area of focus for Columbia Global Centers | Santiago. In that light, since 2016 the Santiago Center has worked with the University’s School of Journalism and Universidad Diego Portales’ (UDP) Journalism School to offer a series of conferences and workshops on The Future of Journalism. To date, there have been 19 events in the context of this series, including those on how Covid-19 is changing journalism, fake news, and the challenges posed by social media.

During 2021, the events held under this partnership included:

**“Debtflix” - A Workshop on Reviewing Financial Statements**

Finance journalist Sara Silver (JRN, CBS’01) led a dynamic, interactive workshop in Spanish to prepare journalists in Chile to review, understand and properly investigate and report company finances, using Netflix’s financial results as an example.
This was a clear, interesting presentation on a subject that should always keep us alert and on our toes as journalists. During these times when there is less interest in having institutional auditors and less time for analysts to carefully look at companies’ results, we as journalists have the duty to scrutinize the data with greater rigor and not allow ourselves to be swayed by aesthetic effects.

MIRIAM LEIVA
Workshop participant and Professor of Journalism at UDP
COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTER ON GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY

Climate Policies for Economic Development

PANELISTS

Mauricio Cárdenas
CGEP, Columbia SIPA

Ricardo Hausmann
Growth Lab, Harvard Kennedy School

MODERATOR

Laurie Fitzmaurice
Director CGEP, Columbia SIPA

#CGEPLIVE VIRTUAL EVENT

THE FUTURE OF STATE-OWNED OIL & GAS COMPANIES IN LATIN AMERICA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 | 10:00-11:30AM EDT

REGISTER AT ENERGYPOLICY.COLUMBIA.EDU
Since its launch in 2013, SIPA’s Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP) has worked to drive energy and climate solutions in order to face the challenges of current times. Looking to address the key topics that affect Latin America and the role the region plays in the present world scenario, the Santiago Center worked with CGEP to collaborate on different topics. Colombia’s Former Minister of Finance and Public Credit and of Mines and Energy, and current Visiting Senior Research Scholar at CGEP, Mauricio Cárdenas, played a significant role in consolidating the alliance.

In view of the economic impact and the unprecedented challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic imposed on Latin America’s state-owned oil and gas sector, in April, the Santiago and Rio Centers teamed up with CGEP to host a webinar entitled “The Future of State-owned Oil & Gas Companies in Latin America,” in which renowned policy experts analyzed the economic, political, and social dynamics at play in the main oil and gas producing countries in the region. The conversation, chaired by Cárdenas, featured the independent energy analyst Rosanety Barrios, adjunct senior research scholar at CGEP, Philippe Benoit, and Fernanda Delgado, researcher and professor at Fundação Getúlio Vargas in Brazil.

Later in the year and looking to address which climate policies can be adopted in the region in order to ensure sustained, equitable economic growth, in September the Santiago and Rio Centers, along with CGEP, Columbia’s ILAS and Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) organized a webinar entitled “Climate Policies for Economic Development.” The panelists were Ricardo Hausmann, Director of the Growth Lab at Harvard University and Mauricio Cárdenas, and the event was chaired by Laurie Fitzmaurice, then Executive Director at CGEP.

Oil is at the heart of economic, social and fiscal issues in Latin America, because national oil companies and [private] oil companies are fundamental from every point of view, not just in terms of foreign exchange revenue and fiscal revenue, but in employment and overall economic activity, so it’s a crucial issue.

MAURICIO CÁRDENAS
Visiting Senior Research Scholar, Columbia SIPA

Countries have to figure out a strategy on how to play a role in the reallocation of global economic activity if they are rich in renewable resources.

RICARDO HAUSMANN
Growth Lab Director, Harvard University
STUDYING HITCHCOCK, CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE
During October and November 2021, the Santiago Center teamed up with Universidad Católica’s School of Communications to present a series of master classes focused on the acclaimed British director, screenwriter, and producer Alfred Hitchcock. In charge of the series was Richard Peña, Professor of Film Studies and Theory at Columbia’s School of the Arts, who is also the former Director of the New York Film Festival and Program Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

A specialist in film theory and international cinema, Peña chose three movies that illustrate Hitchcock’s particular view of US society: Shadow of a Doubt, Rear Window, and Psycho. Class participants were required to watch the movies in advance and then attend Peña’s masterclass in which he analyzed the films’ style, direction, acting, and interpretations of United States cities, as well as its citizens’ idiosyncrasies and aspirations during and after World War II.
CONGRESS OF THE FUTURE: DEALING WITH UNCERTAINTY

Inaugurated in 2011, Chile’s Congreso Futuro (Congress of the Future) is considered the largest dissemination event of scientific-humanistic issues in Latin America and the southern hemisphere. Organized by the Chilean Government, the Senate’s Future Challenges Committee, and the Chilean Academy of Sciences, it is annually attended by experts in a variety of fields in the sciences and humanities, who present on the wide array of problems that society is facing or will face in the future. Given the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 edition was held online between January 18 and 21 under the motto “Inhabit the Uncertainty.”

In the 2021 edition of the congress, Columbia Professor of Economics and Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, Joseph Stiglitz, delivered a keynote speech in which he reviewed how the Covid-19 pandemic deepened inequality between societies and countries. “We need to rethink old rules that have guided economic policy... to ensure shared prosperity for all,” he stated.

The Senate’s Future Challenges Committee, together with Universidad Alberto Hurtado and the Santiago Center, also sponsored a three-day international conference regarding neurorights. Rafael Yuste, Columbia Professor of Biology and one of the initiators of the White House’s BRAIN Initiative, delivered the keynote address for that conference and participated in the seminar, “Neurorights: Present and Future,” during which he reviewed why the study of the brain is so important.
There are deep uncertainties about the shocks that we are likely to face. There are deep uncertainties about the impacts of those shocks on our economy, and, finally, there are deep uncertainties about the responses of the economy to the policies that we undertake. These uncertainties should give us a great deal of humility about economic policy. For decades neoliberalism ignored these uncertainties and pushed with confidence a set of policies that, by a large, did not work.

The brain isn’t just another organ in the body, it’s what generates all of our mental and cognitive abilities. Perception, memory, thoughts, behavior, imagination, emotions are generated in a way that we don’t understand, by the firing of large networks of neurons in the skull.
Partnerships
We are excited to take this important step [in signing the MOU], which formalizes an existing and productive relationship, providing new opportunities to strengthen cooperative relations in the areas of education, research, and other academic activities.

LINDA F. CUSHMAN
Associate Dean for Field Practice, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
In June 2021, building upon the foundation established between Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, the Santiago Center and Universidad Mayor’s Research Center on Society and Health (CISS, according to its acronym in Spanish), a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the parties to further develop cooperation in the areas of education, research and other activities deemed mutually beneficial. Such activities may include but are not limited to facilitating student and faculty mobility programs, pursuing research and other activities of mutual interest and benefit to advance academic and scholarly pursuits, and admitting students into Mailman’s and Universidad Mayor’s degree programs.

Since 2018, collaborative activities carried out within that relationship include 37 scientific publications focused on three thematic areas (aging and life course, mental health and substance abuse, and comparative public policies) US$768,000 in funded proposals to support research collaboration; and 18 exchange students and researchers working in an international environment, as well as nine virtual internships for Columbia students.

The agreement was celebrated at an event during which researchers from both universities held an academic discussion regarding the legalization of drugs.
5.
Student & Alumni Relations
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: THE VIRTUAL GLOBAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

To mitigate the disruptive effects on experiential education caused by Covid-19, the network of nine Columbia Global Centers launched the Virtual Global Internship program in 2020, successfully creating meaningful internship experiences for both CU undergraduate and graduate students in organizations around the world.
Since then, the Santiago Center has led six rounds of internships, providing significant career advancing opportunities to nearly 70 CU students, working remotely in 29 different organizations in Chile including in institutions as diverse as Universidad Católica’s Internationalization Program, business consultancy Razor, the Interactive Jewish Museum, and Universidad de Chile’s Institute of International Studies.

In the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2021, the Santiago Center offered 41 positions from 18 different organizations, for which 91 students applied and 27 positions were filled. In one of the major highlights of the program, participating Columbia students had a resulting paper to which they contributed, entitled “Overcoming Barriers in Higher Education Mobility between Latin America, Canada and Asia: A Scoping Review,” published in Sciedu Press’s International Journal of Higher Education.

Columbia students Arooba Ahmed and Jia Jun Joel Wen performed their internships with UC’s Undergraduate Internationalization Program. Under the guidance of Maribel Flórez, UC Director of Global Learning and Mobility Programs, they researched how to improve the university’s Higher Education International Mobility Programs.

“Even though it was a virtual internship, and we did not get to meet each other in Chile, I still loved the position because of the independence and schedule flexibility, as well as the research skills I acquired over the course of it.”

YIMO CHONG

Columbia College student majoring in Politics and Economics, who worked at Universidad de Chile’s Institute of International Studies (IEI).
We worked together for two months and for the Columbia students it was a great experience to collaborate with UAI students, complementing their knowledge. For the latter it meant working with foreign students, in English and learning more about other universities and how they face research problems. The instance also showed that the problems we are solving in Chile are cutting-edge.

This internship has been a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the education system in Chile and to think critically about who decides what should be a global competency.

RODRIGO CARRASCO (GSAS’13)

UAI Professor of Operations Research and a member of the Santiago Center Advisory Board, who led the research project “Application of Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics Tools in Observatory Operational Data.”

ANGELA LEONARDO

Master’s student at the Columbia School of Social Work, who worked at Universidad Católica’s Vice-presidency of International Affairs, researching how global competencies are defined and measured.
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT: KEEPING THE COLUMBIA SPIRIT BURNING

Columbia Global Centers | Santiago has nurtured and sustained a close working relationship with Columbia alumni in Chile, in order to support the Columbia Alumni Association's (CAA) mission to strengthen alumni bonds of fellowship, sustain the connection between them and the University, act as a means through which they can contribute their collective knowledge and perspective to the life of the University, and develop from their ranks effective and responsive leadership.

In that light, during 2021 the Santiago Center supported three main areas with the Columbia Alumni Association of Chile, the Columbia Business School (CBS) Alumni Club, and Foro Columbia.
I think that the great novelty in this association that has just been formed, and that we are formally launching today in this meeting, is that we have managed to integrate, under the great umbrella of the Columbia Alumni Club of Chile, the possibility that the alumni of the different schools can also be assembled into subgroups that we have called ‘branches.’ A prime example of this is the Columbia Business School branch, which is generally very active in all the countries where it exists, and which is already in the process of organizing itself internally.

MANUEL BLANCO (LLM’96)
Partner at Aninat Abogados, who worked to write the statutes as secretary of the newly formed association

In December, more than 40 Columbia alumni representing eight schools gathered in the courtyard of Hotel Cumbres Lastarria in Santiago to celebrate the formalization of the Columbia Alumni Association of Chile, making it a legally recognized entity in the country.

The event – which included Columbian graduates from the late 1960s to more recent times, and which was also addressed by Columbia Alumni Association of Chile president Graciela Ibáñez (JRN’08), CBS Alumni Chile Club president Jorge Domínguez (CBS’15), and Foro Columbia co-founder Andrés Alegría (SIPA’19) - was an opportunity for attendees to meet fellow alumni and get updates on personal and professional projects, learn about upcoming activities and catch up with friends.
While the pandemic has really affected us, it has shown now more than ever that Latin American entrepreneurs have grit. That resilience in turning problems around has been very important in these last 18 months.

SUSANA GARCÍA-ROBLES (SIPA’99)
Senior Partner at Capria Ventures

CBS PARTNERSHIP

In 2021, the Santiago Center partnered with the CBS Alumni Club to produce four webinars, with the participation of CBS alumni and experts in their respective fields. In April, experts from different sectors came together in the webinar “From the End of the World to the Forefront of Innovation” to highlight pioneering projects being developed in and around Punta Arenas, the capital city of Chile’s southernmost region, Magallanes y Antartica Chilena, which is becoming a hub of groundbreaking business activities and getting known as “Patagon Valley,” making a play on words between Silicon Valley and the Patagonia area.

Next, actors in Latin America’s venture capital (VC) industry came together at end-May in an event entitled “Venture Capital in LatAm: Potential, Opportunities and Challenges” to discuss the development of the region’s VC sector. Participants spoke about more success cases, bigger investment rounds, higher interest from local and international funds in investing in the region, and an increased number of unicorns - startups valued at US$ 1 billion or more - in the region.


That was followed in August by the discussion “Renewing Politics from the Base,” featuring two mayors of Santiago boroughs, Daniela Peñaloza from Las Condes and Claudio Castro from Renca. Each spoke from their side of the political spectrum, reviewing the country’s political situation and reflecting on how trust could be rebuilt for citizens when it comes to politics.
The Foro Columbia-Chile is a meeting space to relive the vibes that as alumni, all of us felt when living in NYC, sharing with people from all over the world, debating policies, criticizing a model, or developing a new idea. It is a space where multiple perspectives come together to understand why we think differently and even more relevant, how we convene towards a point of agreement. On the other hand, the Foro is an invitation not to forget that having passed through these halls of learning also entails a responsibility of contributing to a country where education is a weakness, and therefore, this privilege should be used to feed constructive debate.

GABRIEL GUGGISBERG (SIPA’18)
Head of Green Hydrogen and Emerging Technologies, AgenciaSE
6.
Our Footprint
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

LINKEDIN
- January 2021: 1014
- December 2021: 1951
- Growth: 92%

INSTAGRAM
- January 2021: 525
- December 2021: 993
- Growth: 89%

TWITTER
- January 2021: 1448
- December 2021: 1781
- Growth: 23%

FACEBOOK
- January 2021: 1061
- December 2021: 1203
- Growth: 13%
Did you know Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral has a century-long relationship with Columbia University in the City of New York? Not only ... see more

Gabriela Mistral: Poetess in New York

¡Nos vemos a las 4 pm! panel en español con traducción simultánea al inglés | Con Kathya Araujo de @ideausach, @VickyMurilloNYC de @ILASColumbia, @anulobapnauj de @GobiernoUC y Loreto Cox del @cepchile | ¡Los esperamos! ¡plc: twitter.com/CSWLTIFks4w

Chile’s Constitutional Convention: Election Takeaways and Political Implications

Student Spotlight: Jonathan Navia

November 19 is #WomensEntrepreneurshipDay and to commemorate we are proud to introduce Marisol Alarcón Valencia (SIPA’13)...

#WomensEntrepreneurshipDay

MARI SOL ALAR CÓN (SIPA’13)
Co-Founder Laboratoria & Kaudal

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | SANTIAGO

MEET THE SANTIAGO CENTER’S SUMMER 2021 VIRTUAL INTERNS | Over the past year, the Columbia Global Centers Santiago Center has...

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | SANTIAGO

I want to become an influential leader in Chile’s social public policies to contribute to a fairer society. I know that to make a profound difference I needed to learn from global leaders in the field and that SIPA would provide the best foundation for launching me in this endeavor.

Pisos De Patrimonio y Centro De Eventos Las Torres
Books are intimately linked with academics and play an essential role in registering facts and events, providing knowledge of the outside world, and improving the collective memory and intelligence. During 2021 the Santiago Center was involved in the launch of three distinct yet equally important books: how the dictatorship shaped architecture and city planning in Chile, how institutional weakness may actually be deliberately planned in Latin America, and registering the private sphere of women’s worlds during the health pandemic.
Universidad Católica’s School of Architecture, Ediciones ARQ, and Santiago Center organized the launch of the book “Santiago de Chile 1977-1990: Arquitectura, Ciudad y Política” (Santiago de Chile 1977-1990: Architecture, City and Politics). The collection of essays - based on a conference of the same name held in August 2018 - seeks to contribute to the knowledge and interpretation of a critical period in the history of the Chilean capital. The texts address issues such as dictatorship, neoliberalism, segregation, and the housing and planning policies imposed in Santiago by the Pinochet regime, which among other measures, included the addition of thousands of hectares for urban development on the outskirts of the city.

The event, chaired by Francisco Díaz (GSAPP’13), General Editor at Ediciones ARQ, was presented by book editor Daniel Talesnik (GSAPP’16), Curator at TU München’s Museum, followed by comments from Andrea Insunza (JN’13), Professor at Universidad Diego Portales, Amari Peliowski from Universidad de Chile, and Tomás Errázuriz from Universidad Andrés Bello.

"This book establishes the precedents for everything that has happened in Santiago’s urban development in the 30 years following 1990."

DANIEL TALESNIK (GSAPP’13)
Curator, TU München Museum
Discussing Latin America’s Institutional Shortcomings

It is often assumed that institutional weakness is a fundamental condition in Latin America, part of the region’s political DNA. However, according to Vicky Murillo, Director at Columbia’s Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), Steven Levitsky, Director of Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS), and Daniel Brinks, Political Science Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, the opposite may be true: institutional weakness can actually be a political strategy. The thesis is discussed in “La Ley y la Trampa en América Latina” (adapted from “The Politics of Institutional Weakness in Latin America”), a book co-authored by Murillo, Levitsky, and Brinks that was published in early 2021.

The three academics presented their points of view in an online event hosted by the Santiago Center in May that was chaired by Daniel Matamala (JN’12) Senior Anchor at Chilevisión. Looking closely at the broader picture of the region, the authors addressed the different types of institutional weakness present in the region and reflected on the politics that have led to them, touching on the events that during the last decades have shaken social and political stability in several countries, including Chile.

“We do not necessarily believe that institutional strength is positive, and weakness is negative. For instance, in the Chilean case, one institution that had too much strength was the 1980 Constitution, which wasn’t necessarily good, because it did not allow for adaptation and change while facing social demands.”

VICKY MURILLO
Director, Columbia ILAS
The main idea of this book is to register what women are in Chile in different contexts: racial, ethnic, social and economic, and how they are an essential contribution to the country, from both the public and private space.

XIMENA VIAL (GSAS’16)
Historian and Anthropologist

Goddesses of the Intimate
Shedding Light on the Female World

One of the most noticeable and immediate consequences that the Covid-19 pandemic imposed on people the world over was the withdrawal from public life and the confinement to intimate spaces. Sisters Ximena (GSAS’16) and Paula Vial felt that registering what went on in the private sphere in the midst of a global pandemic was key to future historical accounts, and so they embarked on a book project they entitled “Diosas de lo Íntimo – Oráculos de la Memoria Familiar” (Goddesses of the Intimate – Oracles of Family Memory).

The purpose of the project - which was funded by the Santiago Center’s Covid-19 Research Projects initiative launched in 2020 - was to shed light on narratives that are linked to the intimate space of the home and womanhood, which have consistently been kept in the private spheres of history and left out of traditional accounts even though women have been the keepers of the intimate space and family memory since ancestral times. The book was launched in an intimate conversation held online in April.
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS
JANUARY

15
Security Challenges for the US in the Biden Administration
John Griffiths, Karen Poniachik, David Rothkopf

25
Debtflix: A Workshop on Reviewing Financial Statements
Sara Silver

26
SPS Latin American Career and Networking Fair

FEBRUARY

04
What the Heck is Happening on Wall Street?
Evan Epstein, Maria Cristina Ruiz, Gabriela Villalobos

MARCH

17-19
Neurorights in Chile: The Philosophical Debate
Joseph J. Fins, Guido Girardi, Pedro Malдонado, Eduardo Silva SJ, Abel Wajnerman Paz, Rafael Yuste

24
Foro Columbia: Green Recovery
Jenny Mager, Fabián Videla

APRIL

12
Book Launch: “Diosas de lo Íntimo: Oráculo de la Memoria Familiar”
Paula Vial, Ximena Vial

21
The Future of State-owned Oil & Gas Companies in Latin America
Rosanety Barrios, Philippe Benoit, Mauricio Cárdenas, Fernanda Delgado

22
Word for Word Poetry Reading
Valeria Araya, Stephanie Dinsae, Kai Lilly Karpman, Matthias Molina, Ana Mora, E.R. Pulgar, Catalina Puga, Rodrigo Rojas

22
Launch of Earth Day Art Contest

27
From the End of the World to the Forefront of Innovation
Denisse Abudinén, Clara Bowman, Juan Luis Contreras, Georges De Bourguignon

28
Foro Columbia: Private Sector Role in Public Policy
Nicolás León

MAY

06
Book Launch: “La Ley y la Trampa en América Latina”
Daniel Brinks, Steven Levitsky, Daniel Matamala, María Victoria Murillo

17
Chile’s Constitutional Convention: Election Takeaways & Political Implications
Kathya Araujo, Loreto Cox, Juan Pablo Luna, María Victoria Murillo

19
Chile’s Constitutional Convention: What’s Next?
Cristina Bitar, Marta Blackwell, Claudia Heiss, Pamela Figueroa

26
Venture Capital in Latam: Potential, Opportunities and Challenges
Susana García-Robles, Julio Guzmán, Cristóbal Perdomo, Evelyn Von Bischhoffshausen
JUNE

Peru’s Economic Outlook: An International Perspective in the Context of Presidential Elections
Jorge Mariscal, Luis Ogas, Liliana Rojas-Suárez, Marlene Savarain

02

Awarding of Earth Day Art Contest Held by Santiago Center and Fundación Chile

20

To Legalize or Prohibit Drugs?
Álvaro Castillo, Rubén Covarrubias, Ana Jiménez-Bautista, Pia Mauro

25

Incorporating Sexual Orientation & Gender in Chile’s Public Health Policy
Margaret Bernales, Lilian Ferrer, Tonda Hughes, Andrés Rivera

29

AUGUST

Lessons on Covering Populist Leadership in Divided Societies
Gazi Jalil, Mary Beth Sheridan

19

Foro Columbia: Education as a Right
Pia Turner

25

Renovating Politics from the Base
Claudio Castro, Jorge Domínguez, Daniela Peñaloza, Juan José Silva

26

Launch of Children’s Short Story Contest to Reinforce Circular Economy

29

JULY

Populism as a New Form of Government
Carmen le Foulon, Diego Rossello, Nadia Urbinati

12

Questions that Companies in Chile Need to be Asking
Paula Estévez, Nicole Keller, Juan Pablo Luna, Karen Thal

14

Investment-Related Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
Francisco Aninat, Nicole Duclos, Charles Kutob, Silvia Marchili, Noiana Marigo, Luke Sobota, Erica Stein, David Weiss, Sebastian Yamine

15

Demystifying Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain and Digital Tokens
Fernando Concha, Jorge Domínguez, R.A. Farrokhnia, Camila Russo

20

Book Launch: “Santiago de Chile 1977-1990: Arquitectura, Ciudad y Política”
Tomás Errázuriz, Andrea Insunza, Amari Peliowski, Daniel Talesnik

27

Seminar: Political Coexistence in the Era of Rights
Luis Eugenio García-Huidobro, Jamal Greene, Verónica Undurraga, Francisco Javier Urbina

28

SEPTEMBER

Revisiting Intelligence Successes and Failures Twenty Years after 9/11
James Clapper, John Griffiths, Karen Poniachik

09

Climate Policies for Economic Development
Mauricio Cárdenas, Laurie Fitzmaurice, Ricardo Hausmann

23

OCTOBER

Peru at the Venice Biennale of Architecture
Mónica Belevan, Francisco Díaz, Felipe Ferrer, Carol Updegrave

06

The US According to Hitchcock: Shadow of a Doubt
Richard Peña, Carolina Urrutia

28

What can we Expect from COP26?
Walter Baethgen, Mélody Braun, John Furlow, Tom Trebat

29
NOVEMBER

04 The US According to Hitchcock: Rear Window
Richard Peña, Iván Pinto

11 The US According to Hitchcock: Psycho
Pablo Corro, Richard Peña

15-17 Latin American Workshop for Research on Depression and Personality

22 The Impact of the 2021 Presidential Election on Chile’s Future
Kenneth Bunker, Loreto Cox, Juan Pablo Luna, María Victoria Murillo

23 Chile’s Presidential Election: 1st round - What’s Next?
Cristina Bitar, Pamela Figueroa, Ken Frankel, Claudia Heiss, Carmen Le Foulon

DECEMBER

13 Assessment of the Biden Government One Year After Elections
Paula Estévez, Robert Funk, Juan Gabriel Valdés

20 Presidential Elections, Governance and Constituent Process in Chile
Carmen Le Foulon, Juan Pablo Luna, María Victoria Murillo, Marcela Ríos

21 The Day After Chile’s Presidential Election
Cristina Bitar, Marta Blackwell, Pamela Figueroa, Robert Funk, Claudia Heiss
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