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Newsletter

Talk on Outlook for the Middle East

On June 26, Professor **Safwan M. Masri**, Columbia University's Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, offered a conference in Santiago on the geopolitical outlook for the Middle East. In this broad talk, Professor Masri attempted to shed light on the current state of affairs in the Middle East and the complex obstacles that lie ahead. In doing so, he touched upon the proxy war taking place in the Levant across Syrian and Lebanese borders, looked to unravel myths of Turkey as a democratic model for the Arab world, drew a portrait of Egyptian political fatigue and spoke about the changing discourse around the Israeli-Palestinian question.



Safwan Masri & Carol Becker, Dean of Columbia's School of the Arts



Chilean businessmen Marcos Zylberberg & Luis Feldman



Eugenio Chahuan, professor at the Centro de Estudios Árabes of Universidad de Chile, & Valentina Giacaman, RumboCiento Founding Partner



Mladen Yopo, from the National Academy for Political and Strategic Studies, & Manfred Wilhelmy, from the Chile Pacific Foundation



Carmen Concha, Columbia MBA Alumna; Ann Kaplan, Member of the Santiago Center Advisory Board; & Ryan Carmichael, Executive Director for Global Development at Columbia



Safwan Masri with the Santiago Center Staff

Seminar on Forest Carbon Credit Standard

Donald J. Melnick, Columbia University's Thomas Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology and Director of the Center for Environment, Economy and Society (CEES), was in Chile to start work with Universidad Católica on a project for the sustainable development of Chile's temperate rainforests. This is one of eight projects being implemented with the support of the Columbia-Chile Fund created by Columbia University and the Chilean government's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) to foster long-term ties and exchange between Columbia and Chilean universities.

On May 26, Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) hosted a seminar, attended by representatives of local companies, government institutions and NGOs, about the Rainforest Standard (RFS), a carbon credit standard for forest conservation developed by Columbia University and several South American partners. After initially focusing on tropical rainforests at the Amazon, it is now looking to expand its application to temperate forests such as those found in Chile.

Both Professor Melnick and Professor **James Warfield**, Deputy Director of CEES, spoke at the seminar. Melnick's project with Universidad Católica envisages the implementation of at least one RFS demonstration project in Chile.

The team visited temperate forests, principally in the *Araucanía* Region of southern Chile, and met with representatives of National Forest Service (CONAF) and the local forestry industry to explore opportunities for future collaboration.



Donald Melnick, Rodrigo Figueroa (Universidad Católica) & James Warfield



Presentation by Professor Cristián Bonacic of Universidad Católica

Seminar on the 2010 Earthquake Lessons

In another event related to a Columbia-Chile Fund project, over 50 people attended a seminar on August 9 at which the five teams involved in the "Learning from 27F" project, which is researching the lessons of the 27 February 2010 earthquake in Chile, presented their provisional results. Speakers at the seminar included **Clara E. Irázabal**,

Assistant Professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University and Director of the Latin Lab of its Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP).

The project, bringing together Columbia University and teams from four local universities, led by **Mario Marchant**, Assistant Professor at Universidad de Chile's Department of Architecture, is studying the urban reconstruction processes that have taken place since the earthquake in central-southern Chile.



Magdalena Gil



Mario Marchant



Clara Irázabal

Its aim is to develop an independent and comprehensive assessment of relief and recovery after the earthquake.

The seminar was organized by the Santiago Research Cell of the GSAPP Global Network. Other speakers included **Magdalena Gil**, a graduate student at Columbia University's Department of Sociology, who spoke about her research on earthquakes and its impact on society.

Palestinian Film Festival

Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) supported Columbia University's Center for Palestine Studies (CPS) and Universidad de Chile's Center for Arab Studies in presenting a week-long Palestinian Film Festival at the Cineteca Nacional in Santiago's La Moneda Cultural Center.

Between June 23 and 29, eight feature films and five short films were shown, focusing on the topic of cinema and exile. Twelve of the films had not previously been screened in Chile.

They included *Omar* (2013), a film by director Hany Abu-Assad about a young Palestinian caught in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. After winning a prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival, it was nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Another important film was *Zindeeq* (2009) by leading Palestinian film writer, director and producer, Michel Khleifi. Half fiction, half documentary, it tells the story of a Palestinian filmmaker living in a European country who returns to Palestine to work on a documentary about the 1948 expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland.

Palestinians living in the United States was the subject of another film screened at the Festival, *Amreeka* (2009) by Cherien Dabis, a Palestinian-American director, producer and screenwriter. A bitter-sweet comedy, it charts the experience of Muna Farah, a divorced Palestinian bank executive raising her teenage son on the West Bank, who moves to the United States to join her sister there.



Advisory Board Meeting

In June, Professor **Safwan M. Masri**, Columbia University's Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, and **Ann F. Kaplan**, a Columbia University Trustee, attended a meeting of the Advisory Board of Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago).

At the event, chaired by Professor Masri, the Center Director, **Karen Poniachik**, reported on key events and upcoming activities as well as the Center's goals and strategies for the future. The Board agreed to focus on three main topics for the coming period: Gender Issues, Educational Reform and Fundraising Opportunities in Chile.



Peter Morse, Ricardo Riesco, Karen Poniachik & Juan Asenjo



Gonzalo Bofill, Ana Novik & Gregory Elacqua

Members of the Advisory Board

- **María Soledad Alvear**, former Senator and former Minister of Women's Issues and of Foreign Affairs
- **Juan A. Asenjo**, Director of the Institute for Cell Dynamics and Biotechnology (ICDB) at Universidad de Chile; 2004 National Award for Science and Technology
- **Gonzalo Bofill**, (Columbia MBA), Member of the Board at Carozzi Company
- **Verónica Cabezas**, (Teachers College), Assistant Professor at the School of Education at Universidad Católica and Head of Training at the NGO Enseña Chile
- **Gregory Elacqua**, (Columbia SIPA), Director of the Public Policy Institute at Universidad Diego Portales
- **Claudia Heiss**, (Columbia Arts & Sciences), President of the Chilean Political Science Association
- **Ann F. Kaplan**, Partner at Circle Wealth Management and Trustee at Columbia University
- **Peter Morse**, Chief of Staff at Quíñenco S.A.
- **Ana Novik**, (Columbia SIPA), Head of the Investment Division at the OECD
- **Daniel Platovsky** (Columbia MBA), CEO at Mellafe y Salas
- **Ricardo Riesco** (Columbia LLM), Partner at Philippi, Yrarrázaval Pulido & Brünner Abogados
- **Giorgio Solimano**, Head of the Global Health Program at the School of Public Health Dr. Salvador Allende G., Universidad de Chile

Visits from Campus



Ellen Lukens



Yamile Marti



Soulaymane Kachani



M. Victoria Murillo



Miguel Urquiola



Felicia Goodman

• Professor **Ellen P. Lukens** and lecturer **Yamile M. Marti**, both of Columbia University's School of Social Work, visited Chile in late May. Professor Lukens was invited by Universidad de Chile to talk about her work on community mental health while Marti participated in a number of meetings with NGOs related to women's issues and human rights as well as launching talks with Universidad de Chile about possible collaboration with its School of Social Work.

• In late May, **Mr. Soulaymane Kachani**, Vice Dean of the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and professor of the School of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, visited Chile to evaluate the engineering syllabus of Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.

• Professor **María Victoria Murillo** of the Department of Political Science and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), participated in the annual conference of the REPAL network for research on political economy in Latin America, which took place in Santiago on June 9-10.

• **Miguel Urquiola**, Associate Professor of Columbia University's Economics Department and School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), visited Chile in June to work on a Columbia-Chile Fund education project with Universidad de Chile.

• **Felicia C. Goodman**, Associate Director for Admissions at Columbia Business School, participated in an information session in Santiago about the University's MBA program. Attended by over 70 people, the session on August 18 also provided information about student experiences and the global MBA alumni network.

... and Visits to Campus

• On August 25, **Esteban Calvo**, Associate Professor and Director of the Master's Program in Public Policy at Santiago's Universidad Diego Portales, participated in a brown bag lunch series on retirement and health, hosted by the Robert N. Butler Aging Center of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.



Esteban Calvo

Professor Calvo is also a Visiting Professor at the Aging Center and, together with **Ursula Staudinger**, Robert N. Butler Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Professor of Psychology, received a Columbia-Chile Fund award to study the impact of retirement age on health.



Ursula Staudinger

• In June, a delegation of lecturers from the Engineering School of Universidad Católica visited Columbia University where, during meetings with counterparts, they were able to learn about their research projects, principally in the areas of information, sustainability and health, as well as visit laboratories and discuss possible opportunities for cooperation.



Juan Carlos de la Llera

The delegation was led by **Juan Carlos de la Llera**, Dean of Universidad Católica's Engineering School, and **Pedro Bouchon**, the Engineering School's Director of Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies. During the visit, they met with **Mary C. Boyce**, Columbia University's Dean of Engineering.



Pedro Bouchon



Mary Boyce

Columbia Professor Gives Statistics Conference



José Ramón Zubizarreta

On August 19, **José Ramón Zubizarreta**, Assistant Professor at the Statistics Department of Columbia University's Graduate School of Business, gave

a lecture in Santiago on New Statistical Methods for Causal Inference in Health and Social Policies.

Professor Zubizarreta's research is centered on statistical methods for inference in randomized experiments and observational studies, with a focus on their use to address healthcare and public policy questions. He is currently engaged in research with different specialists at Universidad Católica.

Pre-Departure Orientation Session

Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) teamed up with EducationUSA, a US Department of State-supported global network of advisory centers, to offer a Pre-Departure Orientation Session for students who will begin undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate or intensive English studies in the United States this year.

The four-hour session on was attended by over 100 students, some of whom will be going to Columbia University. A representative of the US Consulate in Santiago answered questions about student visas and a representative of Chile's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) talked about the *Becas Chile* scholarship program.

The session also offered guidance on pre-departure matters such as vaccinations, medical insurance and required documents as well as about practical post-arrival matters such as opening a bank account and obtaining a driver's license.

This year, 29 Chileans students were awarded *Becas Chile* scholarships for master's studies at Columbia University while a further four obtained PhD scholarships.

Upcoming

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | LATIN AMERICA SANTIAGO



Julio Fernández

MECHANO-BIOLOGY: New Paradigms for the 21st Century

On December 11-12, 2014, Santiago will host an unique workshop about the new science of Mechano-Biology both at the cellular level and at the single molecule level.

The symposium will bring to Chile top-notch scientists who will give a series of lectures presenting the advances in the field. The gathering includes the participation of four speakers from Columbia University, including **Julio Fernández**, **Andrés Rivas**, **Michael Sheetz** and **Brent Stockwell**.

The event aims to explore the possibility of capitalizing on the new science of Mechano-Biology to develop a new perspective in Pharmacology. Also the program includes an experimental component where a group of selected students will do hands-on single molecule forcespectroscopy experiments.

This symposium is held in conjunction with Fundación Ciencia & Vida and sponsored by the Internacional Centre for Theoretical Physics, UNESCO, IAEA, and Luigs & Neumann GmbH



Andrés Rivas

More information: www.mechanobiology2014.cienciavida.org

Chaplain Davis and Students Visit Chile



Paula Pacheco, Chaplain Davis, Maria Maes, Eric Haskell & Solange Villarroel

Key visits included Santiago's *La Victoria* neighborhood -where, in a meeting at the Catholic Church, the group learned about the community's origin in a land occupation and its experience during the dictatorship- and Popular Education in Health (EPES), a private institution founded by Lutherans, which has successfully implemented innovative teaching models for health training and education in underserved and impoverished communities.

Colombia University's Chaplain **Jewelnel Davis** visited Chile as part of the Kraft Global Fellows Program for intercultural and interfaith awareness. The purpose of the visit on which Chaplain Davis was accompanied by three students was to explore the role of the Catholic Church in post-dictatorship Chile, the rise of the Evangelical movement and young people's views about the Pinochet dictatorship.

The students also visited a Mapuche community in southern Santiago's *La Pintana* district where they were able to learn about this indigenous people's culture and traditions as well as problems of discrimination, poverty and exclusion. The group was hosted at La Moneda, the presidential palace, by **Paula Pacheco**, a SIPA alumna now working at the Minister of Interior.



Who Cares for Chilean Cities? assesses recent Chilean production in the fields of architecture, public space, and urban projects, from the point of view of the city and its actors.

Based on this question, Chilean scholars **Luis Eduardo Bresciani**, **Romy Hecht**, and **Rodrigo Pérez de Arce** selected three projects for each of the aforementioned categories. US-based scholars **Saskia Sassen**, **Stan Allen**, and **Iñaki Ábalos** evaluated the selections by their Chilean peers, opening up a series of conversations moderated by **Clara Irazábal**, **Galia Solomonoff**, and **Enrique Walker**. The book closes with a reflection on Chilean cities and public space by the former GSAPP Dean, **Mark Wigley**.

The texts and projects presented in this book are based on two conferences held in New York and Santiago in 2013. More than a catalog of the events, however, the book is intended to have its own life, as a device that, by presenting provisional answers to the question, opens up the conversation to a broader public who might offer additional responses. The book was edited by GSAPP Alumnus **Francisco Díaz**.