

UCSD to hold Town Meeting on emerging democracies in Latin America on April 23

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TOWN MEETING ON EMERGING DEMOCRACIES IN LATIN AMERICA TO BE HELD AT UCSD ON APRIL 23

UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) will hold a Town Meeting on emerging democracies in Latin America on Monday, April 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the IR/PS Robinson Building Complex Auditorium.

The Town Meeting will be held just two days before the scheduled transfer of power in Nicaragua from the communist Sandinista government to the democratically elected Chamorro government. At the meeting "Emerging Democracies in Latin America: Will They Survive?" a panel of UCSD experts will examine the future of Nicaragua as well as other emerging democracies in Latin America.

"The most significant political trend in Latin America today is democratization," said Miles Kahler, acting dean of IR/PS. "In the 1970s, roughly 90 percent of Latin Americans lived under military dictatorship. Now, about 90 percent of the people in Latin America are under civilian rule. But, given the past problems of instability, can these fragile democracies survive?"

The panel, which will be moderated by Kahler, will include the following panelists: Ambassador Paul Boeker, director of the UCSD-based Institute of Americas, will provide an overview; Professor Paul Drake who will discuss the transition from dictatorships to democracies in Chile and Brazil; San Diego State University Professor Brian Loveman, who will address the political changes in Nicaragua; Professor Matthew Shugart who will talk about the transition in government in Colombia; and Professor Peter Smith, the director of UCSD's Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS), who will discuss the challenges facing existing democracies in Latin America.

The town meeting is one in a series of community outreach efforts designed to share UCSD faculty expertise and knowledge with the community. Sponsored by IR/PS, CILAS and UCSD's Department of Political Science, it is the first public event to be held in the Graduate School's new facilities. The town meeting is free and open to the public. (MAP ATTACHED)

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