



Biographies of Participants
“Iran in Latin America: Threat or Axis of Annoyance?”
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Hugo Alconada Mon is the Washington Correspondent and U.S. Bureau Chief of the Argentine newspaper *La Nacion*. He is a graduate of the Law School of the University of La Plata, Argentina, and earned his Master's degree summa cum laude in Political Communication from the University of Navarre, Spain. He is co-author of *Prensa y Congreso* (2002), and has published articles in regional and national media in the United States, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina. The winner of scholarships and grants from the United Nations, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Salzburg Seminar, as well as the top Argentine Award for Journalism (ADEPA's), he has taught in the Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) and his alma mater, the Universidad de La Plata. He has also been a visiting scholar at the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Elodie Brun is a doctoral candidate in political science at the Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris, studying south-south relations between Latin America and Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Working with Carlos A. Romero of the Universidad Central de Venezuela, she has written extensively on Iranian-Venezuelan relations. Her previous research focuses on international relations between the Perso-Arabic and South American countries, particularly Egypt, Iran, Brazil, and Venezuela. She is the author of *Les relations entre l'Amérique du Sud et le Moyen-Orient. Un exemple de relance Sud-Sud* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008), among other publications.

Farideh Farhi is currently a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars doing research on the roots and nature of political competition in Iran. She is an independent scholar and Affiliate Graduate Faculty and Lecturer at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She has taught comparative politics at the University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, University of Tehran, and Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran. Her publications include *States and Urban-Based Revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua* (University of Illinois Press, 1990) as well as numerous articles and book chapters on comparative analysis of revolutions and Iranian politics and foreign policy.

Gustavo Fernández served as Bolivia's Minister of Foreign Affairs under three administrations, and has held posts as Minister of the Presidency, Ambassador to Brazil, General Consul in Chile, and Secretary of Integration. A lawyer by training, he has held a number of posts in international organizations, including chief of the OAS Electoral Mission in Nicaragua in 2006, as well as consultancies on development and integration issues with the Andean Development Corporation, the United Nations Development Program, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Among his recent publications is *Bolivia en el laberinto de la globalización* (

Félix Maradiaga co-founded Nicaragua's Ministry of Defense and served as the youngest-ever Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense. Subsequently, he co-founded the Civil Society Leadership Institute (CSLI), an organization dedicated to fostering civic engagement and strengthening democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua. He is currently a senior researcher at the Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policy (*Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas*, IEEPP) and a Yale World Fellow at Yale University. He holds a B.A. Summa Cum Laude in Political Science from the University of Mobile (Alabama) and a Masters with honors in Public Administration from Harvard University.

César Montúfar is a professor at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador, and executive director of the Centro Andino de Estudios Internacionales. His areas of expertise include Ecuadoran and Latin American politics, international development, and international security. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the New School of Social Research, where he won an award for the best doctoral dissertation by a foreign student. He is the author of *Gobernabilidad y Participación* (2004) and *Hacia una teoría de la asistencia internacional del desarrollo* (2002), among other publications.