



Area of Impact: Society

Specialty: Democracy, Politics

In the last decade, Chile has encountered new scenarios in the field of political representation: low electoral turnout, growing mistrust in the political system and emergence of social movements. Considering this backdrop, the Millennium Nucleus Center Challenges to Representation seeks to contribute to the reflection on the tests that Chile faces with a comparative perspective, to produce topnotch research on this subject and to propose recommendations in order to strengthen the democratic system.

This Millennium Nucleus Center is anchored at the Political Science School of the Diego Portales University and is organized in four research areas. First, the center studies Chile's institutional design and its ability to generate governance by the means of processing conflicts appropriately. Secondly, it examines how different actors have been politicizing inequality, forcing this way a change in the country's political agenda. Third, it investigates how the emergence of critical citizens and the expansion of the middle classes bring along a growing demand for democratic improvements. Finally, it compares the Chilean experience having in mind the objective of assessing how other countries have faced similar challenges and how they have achieved (or not) solutions.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Coordination of a special issue of the Journal of Politics in Latin America (JPLA) with international researchers, in line for prompt publication. This special issue directed by the Center will feature articles from researchers Jana Morgan (University of Tennessee) Peter Siavelis, (Wake Forest University) and Kenneth Roberts (Cornell University). In short, the publication will summarize the work of the center during its first year, focused on understanding the challenges to representation in Chile.
- Collaborative work with the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) on the document "How and when did they talk about inequality?" which aims to identify when and how inequality has been discussed in Chile, taking government programs and presidential speeches as objects of study. The document was prepared by Ignacio Soto, a researcher at the center.
- During 2015, the Millennium Nucleus Center Challenges to Representation conducted three academic conferences with the attendance of researchers from important universities from around the world (Larry Bartels, Vanderbilt University; Jan-Werner Müller, Princeton University and Kurt Weyland, University of Texas at Austin). Additionally, the presentation of three academic books took place including "The Politics of Gay Marriage in Latin America" by Jordi Díez, "Comparative Politics about Latin America" by researchers Rossana Castiglioni and Claudio Fuentes and the book "The Constitutional Solution" by researchers Claudio Fuentes and Alfredo Joignant.

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RESEARCH TOPICS

- Institutional design.
- Politicization of inequality.
- Critical citizens and the emergent middle class.
- Compared experiences.

NOTED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- **"Reducing Gaps" Competition:** an activity that seeks to reward and draw attention to the efforts of institutions and individuals whose work and experience have contributed to the reduction of representation gaps.
- **"A crisis of democratic representation in Chile?"** Seminar that included differentiated spaces for academic debate as well as for political debate. It aimed at gathering diverse audiences interested in academic debate as well as in the political discussion of the seminar topic. To encourage the debate various national figures were invited, such as Gabriel Boric (Independent Left Representative), Maya Fernández (Socialist Party Representative), José Antonio Kast (UDI Representative), Andrés Velasco (former presidential candidate of the Ciudadanos Party) and Ignacio Walker (Christian Democrat Party Senator). CNN Chile host Mónica Rincón moderated the panel.
- **Democracy and Representation in Chile Workshop: Challenges and Threats:** Workshop designed for high school students within the context of "Open Day UDP 2015", an activity that seeks to attract high school juniors and seniors to the different academic and outreach activities carried out by UDP. In this opportunity, the Millennium Nucleus Center Senior Researcher Claudio Fuentes lead the workshop, in which took place a reflection on the challenges to political representation of Chile, along with an analysis of the institutional design and the emergence of critical citizens.

PRODUCTIVITY PUBLICATIONS (2014-2016)

ISI: 6 | SciELO: 1 | BOOK CHAPTERS: 1
| BOOKS: 1 | WORK DOCUMENTS: 4

ACTIVE MILLENNIUM NUCLEUS CENTER From 12/24/2014 to 12/24/2017

The Millennium Nucleus Centers can be renewed after 3 years, reaching a maximum of 6 years.

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