

ON THE PROFESSION

Social Science in Latin America

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of law, to regulate relations both between citizens and the state and among citizens. This capacity is shaped by the strength of challengers in various forms, from organized crime to regional autonomy movements. Another fundamental aspect of stateness is the capacity to provide social services, from health and education to sanitation. These services are typically provided by subnational political entities, which means that overall state capacity is heavily influenced by the fiscal arrangements that provide resources to these subnational entities. State capacity to guarantee the rule of law and provide social services, of course, is central for the capacity of a society and economy to provide citizens with the chance to build the type of life that citizens choose. ■

The three contributions to *On the Profession* analyze different aspects of the political economy of knowledge production in Latin America. Jointly, the three pieces provide a nice overview of how the interaction between local academic structures, funding opportunities, and training options shape different patterns of social science knowledge production in the region.

In the piece by Chernya, Sierra, and Snyder, the authors analyze the ways in which the interaction between national and international funding structures affects the nature and scope of social science research in Peru, Argentina, and Mexico. Malamud and Freidenberg's article looks at the Southern Cone (i.e., Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay) to unveil the different career paths of those who pursue Ph.D programs abroad. They find that while Brazilians usually return to their home country, Argentineans and Uruguayans usually do not. These patterns, they argue, could be explained by the incentives that the academic market provides in each case. David Altman's contribution completes the overview, analyzing the (ISI) productivity of twenty-one political science and international relations departments in the region. This last piece also depicts the varying nature of political science departments in the region. ■