

The State of Latin American Democracies in the Early Twenty-First Century

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I am excited about the program that is being prepared for the Chicago meeting and am deeply grateful to the track and section chairs who are working to ensure that we have a stimulating and inclusive Congress and that we can maintain our goal of being both deep and broad. Florencia and Raúl are working overtime to ensure an excellent program, the track and section chairs are on schedule to meet deadlines, numerous committees are engaged in the hard work of reading materials and discussing awards, the Film Festival is taking shape, and the Secretariat is making sure that the Congress flows smoothly and efficiently for all. I think we can all look forward to a great meeting in Chicago in May. I look forward to seeing you there. ■

In an effort to include different voices and perspectives from key players in Latin American politics, we have invited former Ecuadorian president Jamil Mahuad (1998–2000) to provide his analysis of the state of Latin American democracies in this second decade of the twenty-first century. He contends that democracies must pass a test of legitimacy to understand their true nature. In essence, they must be examined based on their legitimacy of origin, legitimacy of behavior, and legitimacy of results. President Mahuad is not very optimistic about the results of this legitimacy test and leaves the reader with a warning based on neuroscience theories of perception: beware of those who destroy Democracy by using democracy. ■