

Evelyne Huber and John D. Stephens Receive 2019 O'Donnell Prize

by **Gabriela Ippolito-O'Donnell** and **Kevin J. Middlebrook**

We are pleased to announce that Professor Evelyne Huber and Professor John D. Stephens were selected as recipients of the 2019 Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship.

Evelyne Huber is the Morehead Alumni Professor of Political Science and John D. Stephens is the Gerhard E. Lenski, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. They both received their PhD degrees (in, respectively, political science and sociology) from Yale University, and they have both held prestigious research fellowships and grants from, among other sources, the Guggenheim Foundation, National Science Foundation, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton University), Kellogg Institute for International Studies (University of Notre Dame), and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Multiple book prizes from the American Political Science Association and the American Sociological Association attest to the importance of their academic contributions. Professor Huber is a past president of LASA.

Over the course of their distinguished careers, Professors Huber and Stephens have investigated both the conditions that favor the installation and maintenance of democracy and the conditions under which democracy can function in an egalitarian way, with strong representation for subordinate classes and policies that reduce inequalities in life chances. Inspired in part by Guillermo O'Donnell's challenge to modernization theory and its interpretation of the consistently positive statistical association between development and democracy, their agenda-setting book *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (1992, coauthored with Dietrich Rueschemeyer) argues that the historical origins of mass democracy can best be explained by examining in

a broadly comparative context changes over time in power relations in civil society, between civil society and the state, and in the international economy and system of states. In *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State: Parties and Policies in Global Markets* (2001), they demonstrate that fostering democratic politics among subordinate classes promotes redistributive social policies in advanced industrial (and postindustrial) societies. And in their most recent book, *Democracy and the Left: Social Policy and Inequality in Latin America* (2012), Professors Huber and Stephens explore the impact of democratization on social policy, poverty, and inequality in Latin America.

The text of their O'Donnell lecture appears in this issue of *LASA Forum*.

We are grateful to Kenneth M. Roberts (Cornell University), Timothy R. Scully (University of Notre Dame), and Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida (Universidade de São Paulo) for their generous service on the award selection committee. //