Venezuela in Latin America: A Glimpse into the Chavez Era

Join us for a talk with Professors Ricardo Hausmann and Leonardo Vivas about the economic, political and social changes in Venezuela and their impact in Latin America.

Venezuela has experienced a tremendous transformation over the past decade. The "21st Century Socialist Revolution" spearheaded by President Hugo Chávez has redefined the political, social, military, and economic pillars in the country and, increasingly, the region. The radicalization of Latin American politics, the shift toward highly planned economies, and the precarious interactions of the region with various players in the world arena, have become increasingly relevant topics in the international agenda. In this talk three experts with extensive experience about Venezuela and Latin America will discuss their perspectives on the effects of the Chávez era on the macroeconomic development, political trends, regional conflict, and social cohesion in both Venezuela and Latin America as a whole.

WEDNESDAY, 03/31, 5:30 pm, 54-100

About the Speakers

Prof. Ricardo Hausmann is Director of the Center for International Development and Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at Harvard University. Previously, he served as the first Chief Economist of the Inter-American Development Bank (1994-2000), where he created the Research Department. He has served as Minister of Planning of Venezuela (1992-1993) and as a member of the Board of the Central Bank of Venezuela. He also served as Chair of the IMF-World Bank Development Committee. His research interests include issues of growth, macroeconomic stability, international finance, and the social dimensions of development.

Prof. Leonardo Vivas is currently a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University and Coordinator of the Latin American Initiative. He currently teaches Latin American Politics at Umass-Lowell. He founded and for several years has led Latin Roots, an organization devoted to Latino Culture and Education in Massachusetts. At Tufts University he taught a course about the Chavez Era in Venezuela. In Venezuela he was Director of Industry in the Development Ministry and founder of several nonprofit organizations. Professor Vivas has published two books about Venezuela's political crises.

Hosted by the Venezuelan Student Association at MIT.