David Lindwall will talk about the fall of the progressive government of Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz in 1954 and why Democrats and Republicans in the United States Congress joined forces to support the Eisenhower Administration’s use of the CIA to remove Árbenz. The story of Congressional involvement, which is the subject of Lindwall’s MA thesis, has been understated in the literature on the 1954 revolution and is a case study of how foreign policy decisions are driven by many players with differing motivations. Lindwall will also talk about the process of researching and writing a thesis, as well as discussing jobs in the United States Foreign Service.

David Lindwall is a second-year Masters Degree student at the Latin American and Iberian Institute of The University of New Mexico. A native of California who was raised in Guatemala as a child, Lindwall served for 34 years with the United States Department of State in numerous Latin American posts, Spain, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sweden.