



Base Map: TUBS, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Why Do Populist Authoritarians Rarely Turn into Repressive Dictators?

Kurt Weyland, Mike Hogg Professor, Liberal Arts University of Texas, Austin

NOVEMBER 7

Thursday, November 7, 2024 | 3:30 PM | Ortega Reading Room (third floor)

Join the LAll, the Department of Political Science, the International Studies Institute, and the College of Arts and Sciences for a discussion about authoritarianism in Latin America led by Professor Weyland.

Most authoritarian regimes installed by populist chief executives do not become full-scale, repressive dictatorships. As an explanation, scholars commonly highlight the charismatic appeal of populist leaders: Because they command voluntary mass support, they do not need harsh political coercion. While corroborating this argument, the talk highlights a crucial complementary factor: Populist chief executives have difficulty marshaling large-scale political repression. After all, their insistence on personalistic autonomy creates aversion among the military institution, which is unwilling to back the imposition of harsh autocracy by populist leaders, as an examination of contemporary Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru shows.

Kurt Weyland is the Mike Hogg Professor in Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin. Besides many journal articles, he has published several books, including *Assault on Democracy: Communism, Fascism, and Authoritarianism during the Interwar Years* (Cambridge, 2021); and most recently *Democracy's Resilience to Populism's Threat* (Cambridge, 2024).



This lecture is free and open to the public. Individuals of all abilities are encouraged to attend LAll-sponsored events. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate in one of our events, please visit laii.unm.edu/events/accessibility.html or contact laiioutreach@unm.edu.