Kenneth M. Roberts is Professor of Government at Cornell University in the United States. He specializes in the study of Latin American political economy, particularly the politics of inequality and the relationships between parties, populism, and social movements. He is the author, most recently, of "Changing Course: Party Systems in Latin America's Neoliberal Era" (Cambridge University Press). His new research explores the impact of financial crises on party systems and populist movements in Southern Europe and Latin America.