

Kenneth M. Roberts

"Latin America, Varieties of Capitalism, and the Comparative Study of Populism"

ABSTRACT

This talk will place the study of Latin American populism in a broader comparative perspective with the U.S. and Europe. Latin America's mode of capitalist development, characterized by dualistic labor markets and segmented welfare states, makes the region prone to leftist or "inclusionary" forms of populist mobilization that aim at the integration of subaltern sectors of the national community. The Latin American pattern finds some parallels in Southern Europe, but it sharply contrasts with the more "exclusionary" forms of populism found elsewhere in Europe and the U.S. under different modes of capitalist development.

BIO

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.