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## Access Link to the Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn45KkyjEC0&t=143s>

# Acknowledgments

Thank you to the members of the 2021-2022 planning committee of the Latin America Summit for helping organize the summit, recruit members of the think tanks network to register and attend the summit, and establish the important topics for discussion during the summit. Thank you to the chairs and panelists for devoting their time to this important summit and contributing their thoughts on how to move forward from the COVID-19 crisis.

An additional thanks is owed to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program 2021 Summits Team and Latin America Think Tank Team, especially: Aaron Dubin-Ramos (Latin America Summit Lead and Research Intern), Claudio Robelo (Latin America Project Lead), Laura Messner (Executive Assistant to the Director of TTCSP), Angela de Santis (Summit Coordinator and Research Intern), Matteo Akbarpour, Laura Landetta, and Hannah Odoom. The views expressed are those of participants from the 2021 Latin America Think Tank Summit and should not be attributed to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, the Lauder Institute, or the University of Pennsylvania. Any attributed quotes have been expressly consented to by the relevant participant.



# Introduction and Format

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania hosted the 2021 Latin America Virtual Think Tank Summit under the theme “Think Tanks: Riding the COVID Tiger.”

The summit was conducted in a panel format with each panel led by a chair and focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public, health, politics, and social welfare of both the region of Latin America and individual Latin American countries. The panelists’ focal points generated provocative questions from our audience and productive discussions during the question and answer session that followed each panel.

# 2021 Latin America Virtual Summit

## Program Agenda

### “Think Tanks: Riding the COVID Tiger.”

Latin America Virtual Think Tank Summit Agenda

21 October 2021

Hosted by: The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

*All times below are listed in ET*

9:00 - 9:15 AM **Welcome Remarks and Presentation on “Riding the COVID Tiger”**

**James MCGANN** | *United States*

Director | Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

9:15-10:18 AM **SESSION II: Opening Panel**

This session focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, politics and social welfare of Latin America. The panel consisted of five subject area experts that outlined the key issues and trends that participants must be aware of in each one of these critical policy areas.

*Chair:*

**Fernanda MAGNOTTA** | *Brazil*

Senior Fellow | Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)

*Panelists:*

**Julio CRODA** | *Brazil*

Associate Professor at Faculty of Medicine | Federal University of Mato Grosso de Sul

**Alejandro WERNER** | *United States*

Senior Fellow, Former Director, Western Hemisphere Department | Peterson Institute for International Economics International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**Fernando FILGUEIRA** | *Uruguay*  
Head of Office | United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Cornelia SCHMIDT-LIERMANN** | *Argentina*  
Politician, Former National Congresswoman, and Member of Foreign Relations Committee | CARI

**Feliciano de Sá GUIMARÃES** | *Brazil*  
Senior Researcher | Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)

10:18 - 11:04 AM

### **SESSION III: Panel on General Assessments and Recommendations**

This session focused on general recommendations and regional assessments of COVID-19 with respect to public health, economic development, and international relations. The speakers were part of a final, conclusive Q&A collected from the audience and chaired by Dr. James McGann.

*Chair:*

**Carlos Javier REGAZZONI** | *Argentina*  
Health Committee Director | CARI

*Panelists:*

**Luis Fernando MEJÍA** | *Colombia*  
Executive Director, Fedesarrollo

**Gala Díaz LANGOU** | *Argentina*  
Executive Director | CIPPEC

**Klaus Alexander de Freitas STIER** | *Brazil*  
International Manager | Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)

**Claudia UMAÑA ARAUJO** | *El Salvador*  
President | Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)

**Cristián STEWART** | *Chile*  
Executive Vice President | IdeaPaís

**Carlos GOEDDER** | *Venezuela*  
Senior Fellow | CEDICE Libertad

**Elaine FORD** | *Peru*

Director and Founder | Democracia y Desarrollo Internacional

**Jaime GARCÍA** | *Costa Rica*

Regional Director of Social Progress Index for Latin America | Centro Latinoamericano para la Competitividad y el Desarrollo Sostenible (CLACDS-INCAE)

11:04-11:110 AM

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**James MCGANN** | *United States*

Director | Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

# Countries and Institutions Represented

<b>Total Participants</b> Joined for part or all of the Summit	<b>151</b>
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## Countries Represented: 35

Argentina	Armenia	Bahrain	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Colombia
Costa Rica	Cuba	Curacao	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador
France	Germany	Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras	Mexico	Nepal
Nicaragua	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Puerto Rico	Republic of Korea	Romania
Spain	Turkey	United Kingdom	Ukraine	United States	Uruguay	Venezuela

## Institutions Registered & Represented: 116

Academia de Centroamérica	ADEN School of Government Think Tank	Alianza ONG	AMBERD Research Center of Armenian State University of Economics	AMMAC
ANIF	ANTICIPARSE	Areté Conscious Design	Aru Foundation	ASIES
Asociación Argentina de Contribuyentes	Atlantic Council	Brazilian Center for International	CADAL	CARI



		Relations (CEBRI)		
Cast from Clay	CCIT	CEDICE Libertad	CEEY (Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias)	Center for a New Economy
Center for International Private Enterprise	Center for International Studies (Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina)	Centro de Estudios Convivencia (CEC)	Centro de Estudios del Trabajo	Centro de Iniciativas Democráticas
Centro de Investigación Económica y Presupuestaria AC (CIEP)	Centro de Pensamiento Prospectivo y Estratégico Colombia Patria Mía	Centro Latinoamericano para la Competitividad y el Desarrollo Sostenible (CLACDS)	Cepi - Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)	CERES
CESCOS	Chatham House	CIDOB	CIPPEC	Ciudadano Austral Foundation
Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO)	COMEXI	Consejo Venezolano de Relaciones Internacionales (COVRI)	Consortio de Investigación Económica y Social	Corporación de Estudios para el Desarrollo CORDES
D & D Internacional - Democracia Digital	Derasat	Diálogos A.C.	Diálogos A.C.	Ecologic Institute
Ecuadorian Centre of International Studies CEEI	Elcano Royal Institute	Eléutera	Embassy of Peru	Escuela Superior de Guerra "General Rafael Reyes Prieto"
Espacio Público	Ethos - Laboratorio de Políticas Públicas	FARO	Fedesarrollo	FGV
FOSDEH	Fundación Alternativas	Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo	Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo	Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE)
Fundación Ideas para la Paz- FIP	Fundación Libertad	Fundación Mexicana Para La Salud, A.C.	Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)	Fundación Rafael Preciado Hernández, A.C.   The Rafael Preciado Hernandez Foundation

Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación	FUSADES	Global Leaders in Unity and Evolvement	Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE)	Guatelibre
Heidelberg University	ICP Instituto de Ciencia Política	IdeaPaís	IDEPA - Instituto para el desarrollo de la Democracia Participativa	ILISP - Instituto Liberal de São Paulo
IMCO	INESAD Foundation	Institute for Applied Economic Research - IPEA	Institute for Parliamentary Studies	Instituto de Ciencia Política Hernán Echavarría Olózaga
Instituto de Estudios Peruanos	Instituto De Relações Governamentais - IRELGOV	Instituto Desarrollo	Instituto Millenium - IMIL	Instituto OMG
Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública de la UCA (Iudop-UCA)	Investigación para el Desarrollo	IRIS	Libertad y Progreso	libertank
Millennium Project	Modricenir	National Academy of Sciences of Bolivia	Neiu	Observatório Nacional de Segurança Viária
P. Universidad Católica de Chile	Plan Pais	Plataforma CIPÓ	Red Argentina de Profesionales para la Política Exterior (REDAPPE)	Sajha Foundation
Science Research SCRE	SCS STRATCONS	Sivis Institute	The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES)	Think To DO Institute
Tic Tac - Tanque de Análisis y Creatividad de las TIC	Turkish Center for Asia Pacific Studies	UASD	United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic	Universidad CLAEH
Université Grenoble-Alpes	USP	Vale S.A	Venpaís, Centro de Ideas	VISA PERU
World Bank				

# 2021-2022 Planning Committee Members

ASIES	Guatemala
Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)	Brazil
CEDICE Libertad	Venezuela
Centro de Análisis y Difusión de la Economía Paraguaya (CADEP)	Paraguay
Centro para la Apertura y el Desarrollo de América Latina (CADAL)	Argentina
Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias CEEY	Mexico
Centro de Estudios Convivencia (CEC)	Cuba
Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Económica y Social (CERES)	Uruguay
Center for a New Economy (CNE)	Puerto Rico
Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH)	Uruguay
Centro Latinoamericano para la Competitividad y el Desarrollo Sostenible (CLACDS-INCAE)	Costa Rica
Centro Latinoamericano para la Competitividad y el Desarrollo Sostenible (CLACDS-INCAE)	Costa Rica
Centro para el Estudio de las sociedades abiertas (CESCOS)	Uruguay
CIPPEC	Argentina
Consejos Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI)	Argentina
Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI)	Mexico
D&D Internacional Democracia Digital	Peru
Espacio Público	Chile
Ethos Laboratorio de Políticas Públicas/Ethos Public Policy Laboratory	Mexico
Fedesarrollo	Colombia
Foro Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras (FOSDEH)	Honduras
FGV	Brazil
Fundación ARU	Bolivia
Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo	Ecuador
Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo (FUNDAUNGO)	El Salvador

Fundación Eléutera	Honduras
Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE)	Dominican Republic
Fundación Libertad	Nicaragua
Fundación para el Avance de las Reformas y las Oportunidades (Grupo FARO)	Ecuador
Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)	El Salvador
Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación	Mexico
Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE)	Peru
ICP Instituto de Ciencia Política	Colombia
Institute for Parliamentary Studies	Venezuela
Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA)	Brazil
Instituto Desarrollo	Paraguay
Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad IMCO	Mexico
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)	Sweden
MODRICENIR	Haiti
Paraguay Cambia Contigo	Paraguay
Think to DO Institute	Curacao
World Economic Forum	Switzerland
UNFPA	Uruguay

# Event Summary and Takeaways

## Welcome to the Summit and Opening Remarks

### **James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)**

Dr. James McGann opened the summit by welcoming and thanking all participants for joining the 2021 Latin America Virtual Summit. Despite the difficulties that the pandemic has brought upon societies, Dr. McGann remarked, it is always special when think tanks from across the globe can come together to share their respective countries' experiences and policy advice for how to advance in the future. Despite how it has hastened the demise of think tanks, members of the think tanks community must keep in mind that there is a silver lining to the pandemic: it has forced think tanks to discover new methods of delivering our products and to reimagine how office spaces can be used. Think tanks then, he expressed, must continue to adapt and innovate for the purpose of creating a world where institutions are faster, smarter, more digital, and more agile.

As part of his introductory remarks, Dr. McGann raised a series of trends that will require think tanks to rethink their own research practices and business operations. First, the only constant will be change. We cannot predict what is coming next; however, the only occurrence that we can see coming is change itself. Second, there will be no new normal. There will be a series of crises in the near future, so we must be prepared to meet them. Third, advances in technology and artificial intelligence will speed up change, and we will need to be ready to face such change. Fourth, our lives will be disrupted and transformed. Fifth, it is highly important that think tanks provide evidence-based research and information that provide civil society with a constructive and efficient way forward. Rather than succumbing to polarization and partisanship, think tanks must unite in their efforts to battle the COVID-19 crisis. For it is a crisis that is not going away, Dr. McGann warned. It may very well last another three to four years. Whether this pandemic continues for years to come, think tanks have no choice but to get off the sidelines and step right onto the frontlines. The only way forward is the cooperation and willingness of think tanks to come together and tackle the "COVID Tiger."

## Session II: Opening Panel

### **Fernanda Magnotta (Chair), Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)**

Fernanda Magnotta, a senior fellow at the Brazilian Center for International Relations, opened her remarks by thanking TTCSP for hosting this event. She expressed that this session will provide an overview of COVID-19's impact on Latin America. The session will consist of a diverse group of

leaders and experts who will assess the impact of the pandemic on the following areas: the economy, public health, politics, social welfare, and inter-American relations. Ms. Magnotta concluded by introducing all of the speakers and gave the floor to the first speaker of the panel.

### **Julio Croda, Faculty of Medicine, Federal University of Mato Grosso de Sul**

As the first speaker on this panel, Julio Croda presented the impact of COVID-19 on public health across Latin America. Stressing how much harm the pandemic has done to the region, he expressed that three out of five of the countries that totaled the excess deaths per million people were in Latin America. Additionally, vaccination rates and access are at a low in comparison to regions like North America. Paraguay, Bolivia, Honduras are below the median value of total population vaccinated, and El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Uruguay have minimal access to vaccines. In Brazil, one of the most prevalent variants has been the gamma variant, which increased intensive care unit (ICU) bed occupancy rates across every region in Brazil. Available data for Brazil have shown that the majority of deaths were from those not vaccinated or partially vaccinated. In light of these occurrences across the region, Croda conveyed that there are three possible scenarios for Latin America's future:

- Pessimistic: Such a scenario would include an extensive circulation of the virus, the emergence of new variants, and a high mutation rate among the Latin American population.
- Intermediate: An intermediate scenario would consist of COVID-19 acting just like an endemic seasonal disease like influenza. To add, the global population could reach partial immunity if vaccinations are made available and taken by a majority of the population. Croda believes this scenario is the most likely to occur.
- Optimistic: A positive scenario would look like the pandemic becoming an endemic disease that is less serious than influenza and has a lower burden than influenza.

### **Alejandro Werner, Peterson Institute for International Economics**

Alejandro Werner presented the economic impact of COVID-19 on Latin America. Because of the pandemic, Latin America's economic recovery will not occur until 2022-2023. In 2021, there will be economic recovery with respect to employment despite how poverty and income distribution have both been damaged, and there is an expected growth rate of 6% for Latin America's economy. While countries like Brazil and Chile are likely to recover well, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina are unlikely to do so. Werner remarked that the COVID-19 pandemic is not the first shock to Latin America's economy. In 2014-2015, there was a decline in trade with Latin America that impeded economic growth. Although Latin America has experienced a shock before, the region is currently dealing with serious consequences, such as an income gap and a lack of trust in higher institutions.

Such consequences include the following: a rising trend in the region is the lack of trust in governments, the judiciary, and civil society institutions, an increase in polarization, a multitude of

Latin American states will come out of the pandemic in more debt than beforehand, and income inequality has been pushed back eight years. To prevent these matters from further worsening Latin America's state of affairs, societies ought to integrate a more inclusive contract that does not discriminate against social classes or divide citizens from each other, Werner said. States' social contracts must be reformed if states hope for the overall region to attain a better standing in the international system.

### **Fernando Filgueria, United Nations Population Fund**

As a panelist for Session II, Fernando Filgueria discussed the social impact of the pandemic. Filgueria first described Latin America as the hardest-hit region across the globe, and the years of progress across the region has now been undone. In fact, the pandemic has exposed the structural inequality of Latin America to the rest of the world. Poverty has increased, and two irreversible factors have emerged from the pandemic: the closing of schools and the closing of healthcare systems. Only countries with proper social infrastructure and access to vaccines have opened their economies and there have been less deaths and hospitalizations in these countries in comparison to others. Recovery then has been unequal across the region.

To counter the negative social impact of the pandemic, Latin America produced an expansionary fiscal policy; however, this policy did not see the results it wanted. The policy failed to reach the entire population and was not enough to prevent the increase in poverty. Alongside the expansionary fiscal policy's lack of impact, Latin America has failed to properly handle vaccine distribution and the increasing number of deaths from one country to the next. Filgueira concluded his time by suggesting that a global fund be created in order to generate a basic social protection floor in the least developed and medium developed countries within the region.

### **Cornelia Schmidt-Liermann, Foreign Relations Committee and CARI**

During her speech, Cornelia Schmidt-Liermann expressed that leaders in Latin America must center their attention on the health, social, and economic effects of the pandemic. Schmidt-Liermann first focused on Argentina and reported that Argentina is currently not recovering at a desirable rate and is suffering with respect to the economy, health, and education. Using Argentina as a starting point, Schmidt-Liermann then moved on to solutions for Latin America. Schmidt-Liermann stressed that vaccinations are not going to be the single factor that stops the pandemic; however, appropriate vaccination campaigns, social distancing measures, and, most importantly, a collectivist approach are capable of putting an end to the pandemic together. Even though the rest of the globe is focused on bringing back stability to the global economy, Latin America cannot lose its focus and must remember to address current issues that are beyond the pandemic. Such issues include climate change, migration, education, and food security. If there were to be coordination among countries to tackle these issues and the pandemic itself, the overall region will see a more successful response to the pandemic and will have a far greater future after the pandemic. Schmidt-Liermann relayed that

collaboration is so key because the younger generations, especially in Latin America, a region that has a far younger population than the European Union, for example, must see how positive such an effort is. What collaboration exactly looks like varies and cannot be done in one way or another. Though, leaders must make sure to include the private sector when deriving global solutions because the public sector is only one half of society.

Lastly, as part of a collectivist approach, Latin America ought to focus on its female population. Civil society organizations and leaders in government ought to encourage and assist women in becoming financially independent. Ultimately, while governments look for ways to end this pandemic, they must not forget about women and their contributions to society.

### **Feliciano de Sá Guimarães, Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)**

Feliciano de Sá Guimarães focused his discussion on public policy and international cooperation. Guimarães explained that the pandemic could have had one positive impact: that it could have led to regional cooperation with countries coming together to stop the pandemic from worsening Latin America's state of affairs. Instead, there was no collaborative effort, and Latin America can be seen as the worst region with respect to cooperation amongst its countries. In fact, no country has stepped up to the plate and taken the lead when it comes to handling the pandemic. Consequently, Latin America appears to be on the verge of collapsing.

Furthermore, the pandemic has exposed the inability of governments to handle crises, prolonged pre-existing challenges to democracy, and seen populist leaders attack proper methods meant to combat the pandemic. Guimarães asserted that the region is overstressed by the pandemic, and civil society organizations have lost their previous momentum. Rather than an increase in collaboration and a stop to the spread of the COVID-19 disease, populism and a refusal to institute proper mandates are what have occurred during the last year and a half and these trends will continue to devastate the region if leaders do nothing to confront them.

## **Session III: Panel on General Assessments and Recommendations**

### **Carlos Javier Regazzoni (Chair), CARI**

Carlos Javier Regazzoni welcomed the audience to the third session of the summit. Regazzoni continued with the same tone and mindset as Dr. James McGann's earlier message by conveying that there will be no new normal. Regazzoni then explained that this third session would focus on general assessments of each panelist's country that they are representing and recommendations made by the panelists. This session's panelists represented the following Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru, and Venezuela. After introducing the audience to the session's speakers, the session opened up with the first panelist, Luis Fernando Mejía.



## **Luis Fernando Mejía, Fedesarrollo**

Luis Fernando Mejía presented Colombia's current situation to the summit's audience. Mejía stated that Colombia has suffered with respect to output growth. Last year, there was a contraction of 6.8%. During the past year and a half, the unemployment rate reached an average of 16.1% and will be around 13% by the end of 2021. For comparison, the unemployment rate in 2019 was 10.5%, which indicates that unemployment has risen by 2.5% since 2019. Alongside an increase in unemployment, there is an increase in poverty. It is estimated that poverty rates could reach 41%, which would signal an increase since 2019 and 2020, which saw rates of 36% and 43% respectively. Mejía advocated for structural reforms for the purpose of decreasing poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Without reforms and inclusive growth, these issues will remain in Columbia for the foreseeable future.

## **Gala Díaz Langou, CIPPEC**

Representing CIPPEC as its Executive Director, Gala Díaz Langou assessed Argentina's response to the pandemic and what its future looks like. One of the primary issues within Argentina is poverty. Argentina has not seen a poverty rate that is below a quarter of its population in the last three decades. Now, 40% of its population is living in poverty, and more than six out of ten children are poor. And to make matters worse, poverty is only one out of several issues that Argentina faces. The nation has been unable to confront the effects of climate change and combat the inequalities that have risen to historically high levels. Such inequalities include education and labor. With respect to education, there are many families that lack connectivity to proper WiFi, and children are unable to access their virtual classrooms, learn, and complete their work. Schooling from home has thus become an issue that continues to go unresolved. Concerning labor, the pandemic has caused an economic recession, a lower gross domestic product (GDP) that is now the same as it was in 1980, an interruption in Argentines' incomes, and a rise in unpaid work. Those who have been impacted the most are women suffering from poverty and younger generations. Despite this wide range of issues, Langou expressed hope owing to the near forty years of uninterrupted democracy in Argentina (the nation will reach forty years of democracy in 2023). Langou wrapped up her time by urging state leaders to look toward think tanks for policy advice and clarity in their efforts to resolve these issues.

## **Klaus Alexander de Freitas Stier, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)**

Klaus Alexander de Freitas Stier framed his discussion of Brazil's current situation into three pillars. The first was vaccinations. So far, the Brazilian population has reached a 50% vaccination rate, and deaths have declined to 300-400 per day. The sentiment around Brazilians is that these deaths could have been avoided had mandates been instituted earlier and followed properly. The second pillar was the social impact of the pandemic. Brazil has witnessed its poorest sectors be severely affected, and

women, informal workers, and the elderly have suffered the most. Alongside poverty, there has been unemployment, income losses, and inflation. The final pillar was the prospect of the economy. Brazil's GDP is expected to grow by 5% in 2021 and in 2022, the economy will grow by approximately 1%. Through economic growth, Brazil hopes to rebound and prevent the current crisis from continuing.

### **Claudia Umaña Araujo, Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)**

Claudia Umaña Araujo centered her time on the harm that democracy has faced throughout the pandemic. While COVID-19 is certainly a public health crisis, it is also a crisis for democracy. El Salvador initially functioned as a flawed democracy and can now be seen as a hybrid regime under which the breakdown of laws and the destruction of checks and balances have occurred. The president has received unprecedented support and wielded his power to replace Supreme Court justices and the attorney general. There is little trust in democratic institutions, and journalists and think tanks cannot conduct their jobs and responsibilities because of the continuous attacks on freedom of expression and intolerance of evidence-based research. In the public health realm, information such as the cost of a vaccine or the progress behind vaccination campaigns was classified. Additionally, public procurement laws became expeditious.

Lastly, Umaña Araujo mentioned that domestic violence and unpaid work have increased while formal employment has decreased. Similar to other Latin American nations, women are the group that has been harmed the most. In light of its issues, El Salvador must find a new identity for itself that will allow it to adapt to change in a world where normalcy is no longer guaranteed, argued Umaña Araujo.

### **Cristián Stewart, IdeaPaís**

Cristián Stewart spent his time explaining the present environment in Chile. The nation is one of the nations with the highest vaccination rate across Latin America with over 90% of the population being fully vaccinated. Even children between the ages of six and eleven years are vaccinated, and a third dose is currently being implemented for Chileans over 55 years of age. As a result of such a high vaccination rate, Chile has the lowest level of mortality in South America. Chile is not short of problems. More than two million jobs were lost, a number that is equivalent to the number of jobs created in the last decade, the GDP has dropped by 5.8 points, and violence has occurred amidst a political crisis. However, the economic recovery is promising since 1.2 million jobs will be recovered. Regarding the political sphere, Chile is now generating a new constitution, and presidential elections will occur in a few weeks. The election is significant in that it could lead Chile down one of two paths: either democracy or populist instability. Chile's future thus hangs in the balance with this upcoming election.

### **Carlos Goedder, CEDICE Libertad**

Carlos Goedder represented Venezuela and reported his takeaways of the nation during this session. He detailed how the authoritarian regime of Venezuela is currently facing sanctions and has received no credit line from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The regime has deflected blame and claimed that the sanctions have caused Venezuela to mismanage the pandemic. Part of Venezuela's mismanagement has to do with the numbers that have been reported by the regime. According to the Venezuelan government, there have been 400,000 COVID-19 cases, yet under 5,000 deaths have been reported. Goedder expressed how the numbers do not add up. In addition, the nation's vaccination rate is extremely low: less than 20% of Venezuelans have been vaccinated. While Venezuela's manner of handling the pandemic has been far from superb, Venezuela's economy has deteriorated. There has been a negative economic growth of 4%, and inflation is close to 3000%. Overall, as Goedder conveyed, Venezuela is in the thick of multiple crises pertaining to the pandemic as well as the political realm that does not look to be resolved any time soon.

### **Elaine Ford, Democracia y Desarrollo Internacional**

Elaine Ford covered Peru's COVID-19 environment during this part of Session III of the summit. While more than 50% of Peru's population has been vaccinated, the pandemic has really affected small and medium-sized enterprises. Additionally, education continues to be an issue like it has been in other countries across Latin America. Children in rural areas face the most difficulties since they have little access to the Internet, and teachers are simply not trained enough with respect to the use of technology. And in the political sphere, there is a significant amount of instability and uncertainty owing to the new administration and the policies that were announced during the presidential campaign. So now, Peru has its work set out in front of itself, and its decisions must be made out of awareness of the importance of evidence-based research.

### **Jaime Garcia, Centro Latinoamericano para la Competitividad y el Desarrollo Sostenible (CLACDS-INCAE)**

Jaime Garcia framed the COVID-19 pandemic from Costa Rica's point of view. In Costa Rica, the pandemic has caused a four to five year setback with respect to social progress and economic advances. Women, for example, have been affected by the decrease in their economic participation, and the country has 46% of women as an economically active population at similar levels as in 2017. Costa Rica witnessed 2020 become the year with the highest level of protests and demonstrations in the last decade. Garcia noted that there was even a change in the nature of protests with 50% of them starring civil society organizations. Given how Costa Rica has an overwhelmed public healthcare system, minimal economic resources, and a highly unequal society, data tools ought to be employed by the government in order to understand how to address these issues. If not employed,

recovery from the crisis will be gradual, and the nation will be back to what it was in the 2017-2018 period.

## Session IV: Closing Remarks

### **James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)**

Dr. James McGann concluded the summit by thanking the chairs and panelists for their remarks and participation in the summit. Dr. McGann then reiterated his previous comments that institutions must be conscious that COVID-19 is the normal and that political and social crises will emerge sooner rather than later. He continued with the points made by previous panelists that women and younger generations ought to be included in think tank networks and be considered for leadership roles in order to promote diversity and innovation.

Dr. McGann then transitioned his focus to think tanks and where they can go from here. He conveyed that a major challenge that must be taken into account is how there are little to no multi-purpose think tanks in Latin America that address a wide range of issues. Many countries across the region face more than one issue. From public health, to the economy to politics to the social sphere, there is no stoppage of issues at this point in the pandemic for Latin America. Efforts must then be made to diversify think tanks' focuses. Additionally, there are few international think tanks in the region. International think tanks are of utmost necessity to the region given that it engages with countries like the United States, China, Iran, and Russia consistently, and each of these countries has interests in the region. Civilians across the globe must understand think tanks' purpose of ensuring the betterment of civil society. And the one way to make sure that civilians understand think tanks' and their actions is a summit like the 2021 Latin America Virtual Think Tank Summit. On that note, Dr. McGann thanked the chairs, panelists, audience members, and the TTCSP team for organizing a wonderful summit that succeeded in bringing the think tank community together united in its goals of transparency, innovation, collaboration, and positive change.

# Panelist Biographies

## **Julio CRODA | Brazil**

**Associate Professor at Faculty of Medicine | Federal University of Mato Grosso de Sul**

Dr. Julio Croda has a degree in Medicine from the Federal University of Bahia, Medical Residency in Infectology and a PhD from the University of São Paulo. He is a professor at the School of Medicine of the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil) and at the Yale School of Public Health (US); and a Specialist in Science, Technology, Production and Innovation in Public Health at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil). Between 2019 and 2020, Dr. Croda was the Director of the Department of Immunization and Infectious Diseases (DEIDT) at the Health Surveillance Secretariat (SVS) of the Ministry of Health, Brazil. Currently, he coordinates the Medicine II area of CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel). He has experience in the field of Medicine and Surveillance of Communicable Diseases and conducts research projects concerning tuberculosis among people deprived of their freedom, arbovirus and COVID -19.

## **Fernando FILGUERIA | Uruguay**

**Head of Office | United Nations Population Fund**

Fernando Filgueira received his Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University working on issues of social development, political coalitions and welfare regimes in Latin America. Some of his recent publications in co-authorship include, *Imploding and redrawing care regimes in Latin America; Opportunities and challenges for women's economic empowerment (International Journal of Care, 2021)* *Beyond States and Markets: Families and Family Regimes in Latin America (Springer, 2020)*, *The fiscal cost of the provision of basic public services, subsidies for expenditure on food and basic citizen income per household in Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador during the COVID-19 pandemic: An expenditure analysis (Latin American Economic Review, 2020)*, *Egalitarian redistribution in the era of hyper-globalization (Review of Social Economy, 2020)* and *Growth to limits of female labor participation in Latin America's unequal care regime (Social Politics, 2019)*. He was Coordinator of the Program on Poverty and Social Exclusion at the Universidad Católica (Uruguay). Social Affairs Officer at ECLAC (Chile) and Vice-Minister of Education in Uruguay. He is currently the Head of Office at the United Nations Population Fund in Uruguay and coordinator of the Data and Methods Unit at the Universidad de la República, Social Science Faculty.

## **Elaine FORD | Peru**

**Director and Founder | Democracia y Desarrollo Internacional**

Master's in International Studies from the University of Chile. Postgraduate in International Law and Human Rights from the University of Nottingham, England. Journalist from the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC). She has a specialization in Innovation in Government and Collaborative Solutions at Harvard Kennedy School, United States. She is the director and founder of Democracia & Desarrollo Internacional (D&D International) and creator of Democracia Digital based in Lima, Peru. President of Internet Society (ISOC) Peru (2016-2021). She obtained the "International Leader and Entrepreneur Woman Award" (ODM Peru, 2019), the "2018 Ibero-American Woman Leader Award" (Peru, 2018), and the "Young Leader Award" from the International Young Leaders Foundation (Argentina, 2010). She is the author of the books: "The challenge of digital democracy. Towards an interconnected citizenship" (2019) and "Digital technologies and elections in Peru" (2021). Also, she is the co-author and editor of various publications.

### **Jaime GARCIA | Costa Rica**

#### **Regional Director of Social Progress Index for Latin America | Centro Latinoamericano para la Competitividad y el Desarrollo Sostenible (CLACDS-INCAE)**

Regional director of the Social Progress Index in Latin America; director of San José ¿Cómo Vamos? in CLACDS / INCAE; and Senior Global Advisor at the Social Progress Imperative. He develops methodological and multisectoral approaches and projects for subnational social progress indices, and supervises the methodology of all SPI initiatives in the region. Directly he has been in charge of developing SPI projects at subnational level in all Latin America, these projects have been implemented in 772 municipalities in the Brazilian Amazonia, in 10 cities in Colombia, in 81 municipalities in Costa Rica, in 32 tourist destinations of Costa Rica, and at business level with Coca Cola, Cargill, Ecomtrading and Holcim. He has been in charge of technical workshops at MIT, and leads the teaching of social progress index at INCAE Business School. He is part of the Situation Room for the COVID-19 crisis at the National Emergency Committee of the Government of Costa Rica.

### **Carlos GOEDDER | Venezuela**

#### **Senior Fellow | CEDICE Libertad**

Carlos Goedder is the pen name of Economist Orlando Guedez Calderin. He has worked in the finance industry (banking and Asset Wealth Management) since 1995. He is a Certified Financial Risk Manager by the US-based Global Association of Risk Professionals (2009). He has lived and worked in Argentina (2000-2002), Brazil (2002-2005), Spain (2005-2013), Colombia (since 2013), and briefly in Tanzania (2017-2018).

He has been a member of CEDICE LIBERTAD since his college days, in 1996. His areas of research include measuring Economic Freedom, Fiscal Policy, Health Economics and Trends in Financial Market. He is an Economist (UCAB, Venezuela, Cum-laude 1997) and has a Master in

Marketing (IESA, Venezuela, Awarded Prize by P&G). He has published articles with CEDICE, Universidad del Externado, Harvard Kennedy School, and has lectured in the Venezuelan UCAB. Full information at: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/orlandoguedezcalderin/>

### **Feliciano de Sá GUIMARÃES | *Brazil***

#### **Senior Researcher | Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)**

Feliciano de Sá Guimarães holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of São Paulo (2006-2010), a Master's in International Relations from the State University of Campinas (San Tiago Dantas Program 2003-2005) and a Bachelor's in International Relations from the Tuiuti University of Paraná (1998-2002). He also has an incomplete Bachelor's in Social Sciences from the Federal University of Paraná (1998-2003).

Guimarães is an Associate Professor at the Institute of International Relations at the University of São Paulo (USP) and an Associate Editor of the prestigious academic journal Foreign Policy Analysis. He is on a productivity scholarship from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPQ) (level 2). Guimarães studies the identity of Brazilian foreign policy as well as public opinion on Brazilian foreign policy. He was a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Political Science at Yale University (2019-2021) and Program Chair of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Honolulu, Hawaii, USA).

### **Gala Díaz LANGOU | *Argentina***

#### **Executive Director | CIPPEC**

Gala Díaz Langou | Executive Director at CIPPEC | MA in Public Policy and Development Management (Georgetown University) and a BA in International Studies (Universidad Torcuato Di Tella). She is a professor at di Tella University. She is a Delegate to W20 representing Argentina. She was a speaker at TEDx Río de la Plata in 2019. She has been selected as one of the 100 global women leaders of G100 to promote advocacy, awareness & impact across governments and global organisations for a gender equal future. She has also worked as an international consultant for several UN agencies and other international organizations and governments of the Latin American Region. She has worked at CIPPEC since 2006, where she was Director of the Social Protection Programme between 2016 and 2021. Her work is focused on doing applied research on gender and children's rights. She has authored over 50 publications on social policy in Latin America, including a book on Early Childhood in Argentina (2015), a book on Gender Economic Equity and G20 (2018) and a book on Gender and Labour in Argentina (2019).

### **Fernanda MAGNOTTA | *Brazil***

#### **Senior Fellow | Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)**

Senior Fellow at CEBRI, in the United State Program. Fernanda Magnotta holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree from PPGRI San Tiago Dantas (UNESP/UNICAMP/PUC-SP). She is an expert in US politics. She is a Professor and Coordinator of the International Relations school at Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado (FAAP), and serves as a consultant to the Brazilian Bar Association's Committee on International Relations (OAB/SP).

She is the author of the book *As ideias importam: o excepcionalismo norte-americano no alvorecer da superpotência* (“Ideas Matter: the North-American Exceptionalism in the Dawn of the Superpower”) (2016) and several other chapters of scientific books and articles. She is co-creator of "Em Dupla, Com Consulta", one of the largest channels dedicated to the uncomplicated teaching of International Relations on Youtube Brazil.

She was head of Brazil's delegation at the G-20 Youth Summit in China, followed the US presidential elections in Ohio at the invitation of the US Embassy in Brasilia, and was selected by the UCLA/Santander W30 Program as one of the thirty most outstanding women in academic management in the world.

### **Luis Fernando MEJÍA | Colombia** **Executive Director | Fedesarrollo**

Luis Fernando Mejía is the Executive Director of Fedesarrollo, the most prestigious think-tank in Colombia and first in Central and South America. He is an economist with BA and MA degrees in Economics from the Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá) and an MA degree and PhD studies (ABD) in Economics from the University of Chicago. He was Deputy Minister and Minister of Planning of Colombia in the period 2014-2018. During his tenure, the Ministry led the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, designed and published long-term policies on green growth and air quality in cities, and provided critical technical support and coordination for the government during Colombia's successful accession process to the OECD.

Luis Fernando has also held positions as Director for Macroeconomic Policy at the Ministry of Finance, as well as researcher at Colombia's Central Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington. He has also taught macroeconomics and international economics at the University of Chicago and various Colombian universities. Among other distinctions, Luis Fernando was selected as one of Colombia's top 50 leaders under 40, he obtained the University of Chicago's Margaret Reid Memorial Fund award, as well as its Martin & Margaret Lee prize to the best doctoral macroeconomics examination. He is in the top 4% of most cited economists in Latin America according to academic citations rankings.

### **Carlos Javier REGAZZONI | Argentina** **Health Committee Director | CARI**



Carlos Javier Regazzoni is a consultant member of the Argentine Council for International Relations on global health issues, as well as a medical doctor and politician. Regazzoni joined the City of Buenos Aires as deputy minister in the Ministry of Social Development and was later appointed as CEO of the city health-care system for public servants in the city of Buenos Aires. From 2011 to 2015, he was the undersecretary of economic and financial management and resource management of the Ministry of Education of the City of Buenos Aires. He is also the former chief executive director of the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners, the largest state-owned medical insurance agency in Latin America for retired people, reporting directly to the president of the country. He is currently an independent consultant in public health and pharmaceuticals public policies. In 2017, he was elected city counselor in one of the largest municipalities in Argentina. He has earned several awards because of his investigations on sustainable health care for old age and on the impact of university education on the workforce. Regazzoni is author of two books on public health and education and editor of other four on health and public administration. He was an Argentine Eisenhower fellow and was in the Latin America Development Leadership Program at Harvard Kennedy School. After graduating as a doctor in 1992, Regazzoni earned a biostatistics diploma and a PhD in biomedical sciences from the University of Buenos Aires, and a diploma in philosophy from Austral University.

### **Cornelia SCHMIDT-LIERMANN | Argentina**

**Politician, Former National Congresswoman, and Member of Foreign Relations Committee and CARI**

I work towards the construction of a fraternal global citizenship, promoting entrepreneurship and socio-environmental awareness.

#### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

NATIONAL CONGRESSWOMAN for the City of Buenos Aires, 2011-2019 - President of the Committee for International Affairs and Culture, 2017-2019

DIRECTOR OF THE COMMITTEE OF JUSTICE Parliament of the City of Buenos Aires, 2010-2011

ADVISOR ON JUSTICE AFFAIRS Parliament of the City of Buenos Aires, 2008-2011

RESEARCHER in access to public information and political communication, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

CONSULTANT Ohle Hansen Ewerwahn Law Firm, Hamburg 1988

INDEPENDENT LAWYER

#### EDUCATION

MEDIATOR Colegio Público de Abogados de Capital Federal, 2005

TRAINING Hamburg Court of Arbitration, 1989

LAWYER AND ATTORNEY University of Buenos Aires, 1987

BACHELOR IN SCIENCES AND LETTERS Goethe Schule Highschool Buenos Aires, 1982

### PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZATIONS

Vice President of the Network of Humanist Women of Latin America (supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation)

Advisory Member of CARI (Argentine Council for International Relations)

Founding member of Civil Asoc. HACEMOS

Member of AMA (American Women Association)

Member of the German-Argentine Justice Association

Vocal of DIHA (Centro de Estudios y Documentación de la Inmigración de Habla Alemana en Argentina)

Founding member of the Institute for Renewable Energy, Argentine Science Foundation

### SOME PUBLICATIONS

"Journalism and access to public information" comparative study between Peru, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

"Co-author "Journalism and quality, debates and challenges", La Crujía 2007

Co-author in "Current situation and tools for dialogue between journalists and politicians", La Crujía Dec. 2009

### **Cristián STEWART | Chile**

#### **Executive Vice President | IdeaPaís**

Cristián holds a bachelor in law from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC). While a student, he was a political leader of one of the biggest university-political movements at PUC – Solidaridad – and led several non-profit institutions. After becoming a lawyer, he worked for TECHO-Chile, an international NGO that aims to overcome poverty in informal housing settlements. While at TECHO-Chile, he co-founded and served as the president of a national political movement, Construye Sociedad, inspired by the same ideas of Solidaridad. In 2016, he was chosen as one of the top 100 young Chilean leaders by El Mercurio, the largest newspaper in Chile. After working for five years, Cristián's interests in policy and politics led him to apply for two masters degrees. First, he pursued the two-year public policy programme Master of Public Administration at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he specialised in economic public policy. Thereafter, Cristián studied an MSc in Philosophy of the Social Sciences at the LSE as well, focusing on the philosophy of economics and political philosophy. Since 2019, Cristián has been a researcher in IdeaPaís, assuming in September 2021 as its Executive Vicepresident.

### **Klaus Alexander de Freitas STIER | Brazil**

## **International Manager | Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)**

Klaus Stier is an international manager at FGV's International Affairs Division. He holds a Bachelor degree in International Relations and a Master degree in Public Administration by the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (EBAPE FGV). At FGV, he conducts political and economic analysis focused on Latin America to support the institution's course of action in the region. He has vast experience prospecting, formulating and implementing international projects and is also responsible for supporting FGV's international activities and for representing FGV among foreign governments, universities and think tanks.

## **Claudia UMAÑA ARAUJO | El Salvador**

### **President | Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)**

**Claudia Umaña Araujo** is a lawyer, activist and legal researcher born in San Salvador, El Salvador. While studying for her law degree from the University Dr. Jose Matías Delgado, the country went through one of its most convulsive times. These circumstances had a great impact on her life and is what has led her to devote most of her career to the pursuit of modernization of the State, search of opportunities through trade and the promotion of the importance of transparency and rule of law as the path to prosperity and peace.

She is the first woman President of FUSADES, which has been ranked among the top 12 in Latin America according to the "Think Tank Initiative." She was the founder and former President for 10 years of the NGO: Democracy - Transparency - Justice (DTJ), which promotes transparency, women's rights and rule of law. Claudia was also a public servant for almost a decade working as the Director of Trade/Commercial Policy of the Ministry of Economy of El Salvador, with the rank of Special Ambassador for Trade Negotiations. During the years that she held office she coordinated the team that negotiated the WTO agreements, CAFTA-DR, Central America and Chile FTA, among other trade treaties. She was also the head of the Central American Economic Integration process. In 2014, she was awarded the "Order of Bernardo O'Higgins" in rank of Officer, by the Government of Chile and in June 2018. Claudia is one of the 12 Salvadoran leaders that are members of the Central American Prosperity Project which is a program to develop action-oriented strategies for achieving inclusive growth in the Northern Triangle, launched in 2018 by the George W. Bush Institute. In 2020, in honour of International Women's Day, the Bush Institute experts recognized her as a trailblazing woman in their leadership programs. Claudia is a Fellow of the sixth class of the Central America Leadership Initiative (CALI) and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

## **Alejandro WERNER | United States**

### **Senior Fellow | Peterson Institute for International Economics**

### **Former Director, Western Hemisphere Department | International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

From the Petersen Institute: “Alejandro Werner joined the Peterson Institute as a nonresident senior fellow in September 2021. He was director of the Western Hemisphere Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from January 2013 to August 2021. In this capacity, he was in charge of the relationship with the 34 member countries from the Americas and the Caribbean (including the United States and Canada), managing bilateral and regional surveillance, program design and negotiations, technical assistance and regional research agenda, seminars, and conferences. Earlier in his career he served as undersecretary of finance and public credit (December 2006–August 2010), director of economic policy and chief of staff at the Finance Ministry of Mexico, director of economic studies at the Bank of Mexico and head of corporate and investment banking at BBVA-Bancomer. He has taught at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Instituto de Empresa, and Yale University.

Werner was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2007. He received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994 and BA from ITAM (Mexico) in 1990.”

# About the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Since its formation, TTCSP has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making as well as strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. TTCSP at the Lauder Institute works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs.

## About the Lauder Institute

Founded by brothers Leonard and Ronald Lauder in 1983 in honor of their father, Joseph, the Joseph H. Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies provides a fully integrated business education to a new generation of leaders coming of age in a rapidly globalizing world. The Institute offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

## About the University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. As a world-class research institution, The University of Pennsylvania peer institutions are Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Cambridge and Oxford. Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world. Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of

Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York.

## **About the Director**

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law. His main research priorities include: analyzing global developments in research on safety and international affairs; influencing United States' foreign and domestic policies through think tanks; strategic advice to BRICS and G20 countries from think tanks and transnational and regional public policy challenges. He is the creator and author of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index which ranks think tanks in every region of the world. Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank; the United Nations; the United States Agency for International Development; the Soros, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett and Gates foundations; the Carnegie Corporation; and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in the US and developing and transitional countries. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Public Policy Program Officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has also served as a Senior Advisor to the Citizens' Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

### ***“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”***

The mission of TTCSP is to increase the profile, capacity and performance of think tanks at the national, regional and global levels so they can better serve policymakers and the public.

TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics and public policy, produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index, develops capacity-building resources and programs, manages and supports a global network of over 8,000 think tanks and trains future think tank scholars and executives. TTCSP is often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank.”

Contact:

## **James G. McGann, Ph.D.**

Senior Lecturer, International Studies, Lauder Institute

Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

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Website: [gotothinktank.com](http://gotothinktank.com)

### **Recognizing the TTCSP Interns Involved**

**Aaron Dubin-Ramos**-Latin America Summit Lead, Research Intern, University of Pennsylvania

**Laura Messner**-Executive Assistant to the Director of TTCSP & Summit Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania

**Angela de Santis**-Summit Coordinator, Research Intern, University of Pennsylvania

**Claudio Robelo**-Latin America Project Team Lead, University of Pennsylvania

# 2021-2022 TTCSP Think Tank Summit and Fora Schedule

## ***2021 VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON Summit and Forum Schedule***

**MENA Think Tank Summit, MENA Think Tank Summit  
November 23rd, 2022**

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2021-mena-summit> (Virtual) (Please  
note date changed from December 6, 2021)

**Global Think Tank Summit, Bahrain, *December 6-7,  
2021***

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2021-global-summit>

**Women in Think Tanks Global Network (WITTGN),  
Bahrain, Launch Date: *December 6, 2021***

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2022-women-think-tanks>

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## ***2022 IN-PERSON Summit and Forum Schedule***

**Catalysts for Ideas, Innovation and Action and the  
Launch of 2021 Global Go To Think Tank Index  
Report, *January 27, 2022***

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2022-catalyst-idea-event>

**North America Think Tank Summit, Washington DC,  
*March 2022***



REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2022-northamerica-summit>

## **Europe Think Tank Summit, France, *April 2022***

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2022-europe-summit>

## **Central and Eastern Europe Summit, *May 2022***

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.gotothinktank.com/2021-central-eastern-europesummit>

## **Africa Think Tank Summit, *Date TBD***

(POSTPONED until the Spring from November 18, 2021)

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2021-africa-summit>

## **Global Food and Water Security Summit, *Date TBD***

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.gotothinktank.com/2022-food-water-summit>

## **Foreign Policy Think Tanks in the Age of Disruptions and Transformations, *Date TBD***

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.gotothinktank.com/2022-disruptions-and-transformations>