



Announcing Recipients of the Annual LeoGrande Prize and LeoGrande Award

American University's School of Public Affairs and Center for Latin American & Latino Studies are pleased to announce the recipients of the William M. LeoGrande Prize for the best book on U.S. – Latin American relations, and the William M. LeoGrande Award for the best scholarly book or article on Latin American or Latino Studies published by a member of the American University community, for 2017–2018.

Lars Schoultz, the William Rand Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, is this year's winner of the LeoGrande Prize. With this prize Dr. Schoultz is recognized for his book, *In Their Own Best Interest: A History of the U.S. Effort to Improve Latin Americans* (Harvard University Press, 2018). Dr. Schoultz's book is an impressive and fitting culmination, thus far, of a distinguished and productive career spent illuminating inter-American relations. This book offers a penetrating and persuasive analysis of the institutions, activities and attitudes characterizing the U.S. "uplift industry" in Latin America over more than a century of U.S. interventions in this region, ranging from military involvement, and security aid, to the work of diverse government and quasi-civil society actors. Dr. Schoultz's book illustrates an impressive scope of research in examining the sweeping history of U.S. engagement with the region. If often viewed in the U.S. as a "noble mission," this book's major contribution is to unpack and reveal the frequent racism and paternalism underpinning U.S. efforts to "uplift" Latin American countries. Beautifully written, this book is a notable contribution to our understanding of U.S.-Latin American relations.

Anthony Fontes, Assistant Professor in American University's School of International Service, is the recipient of the 2018 LeoGrande Award. Prof. Fontes receives this award for his book, *Mortal Doubt: Transnational Gangs and Social Order in Guatemala City* (The University of California Press, 2018). Prof. Fontes's book innovatively blends long-term ethnographic field work in violent neighborhoods, prisons, among police, and in the courts, with media analysis, short stories, and other techniques, to illuminate the various ways in which transnational gangs have become both the face of violence and insecurity in Guatemala, but also the source of a new if disturbing form of social order. Prof. Fontes's book is a nuanced account of transnational gangs, or *maras*, which he demonstrates function at once as: victim-perpetrators of often spectacular violence, the most visible symbols of such hyper-violence, and creators of disorder but also everyday political and social arrangements that help people survive in such a system of violence. In this book gang violence in Guatemala City is convincingly set in the broader contexts of a history of state violence and civil war, U.S. policy toward Central America, and migration, as an expression of how blurred the boundaries are between the criminal underworld, the state, and otherwise law-abiding society.

The William M. LeoGrande Award and the The William M. LeoGrande Prize were established in 2012 to honor William M. LeoGrande's tenure as Dean of American University's School of Public Affairs from 2003 to 2012. The endowed award was made possible through the financial support of alumni, friends, and colleagues of Professor LeoGrande. One of the world's most accomplished scholars in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy, Professor LeoGrande continues to serve as a professor of government at American University.