

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Citizen Participation in a Globalized Economy

Questions we explore in this Course

Why is citizens' engagement and political participation relevant today? Is participation important for the development of a country? Why are citizens and civil society groups around the world demanding greater accountability, participation and transparency from national governments, political parties, international institutions and business entities? What is democracy?

We will explore these questions and analyze key political, social and economic factors in Central America that are shaping citizens' participation today with a special emphasis on Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

You will also be exposed to forces such as globalization and neoliberal economic policies applied in the region and how these – among other factors – have reshaped the role of governments and its relationship with constituents. As we analyze the interplay between local and global processes, you will also be encouraged to reflect upon your role as a global citizen and an agent for change.

Places we visit in Costa Rica

- The first week of the program takes place in the city of San José, where the course will focus on Citizen Participation and how it has shaped the political life of Central American Countries, specifically Costa Rica and Nicaragua. A special focus on youth will be touched, their perspectives on political participation and the challenges they face in the region.
- In the second and third week of the program we will focus on development and democracy. Specifically, on how globalized economy has impacted women, youth, rural and indigenous communities. This includes meeting with women's organizations, indigenous communities and organizations that work with alternative trade like fair trade and solidarity economy.
Places we will visit: Puerto Viejo and Suretka, Talamanca in the Atlantic Coast of Costa Rica
- On the Fourth week, we return to San José to wrap up the Poli/Sci course and the Semester.



Puerto Viejo

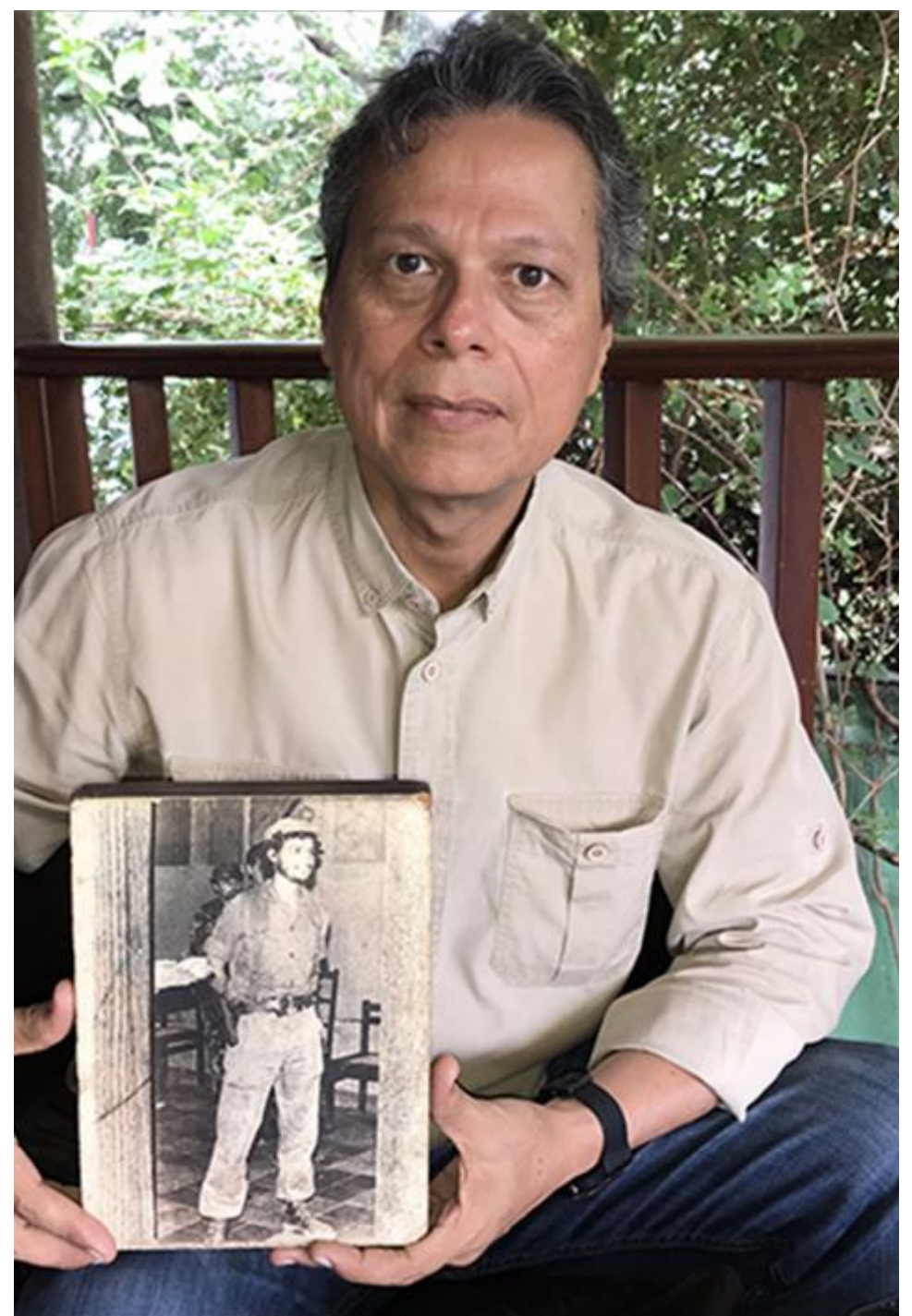


Suretka, Talamanca

Speakers and Organizations

Donald Mendez

Adviser for Central American Integration and Coordinator of the Human Development Report of Nicaragua for the UNDP, 2010. He talks with the students about the challenges and perspectives of youth in the Central American region: migration, corruption, violence, working opportunities and education



José Rojas

Political Science Professor at the ULACIT -Latin American University of Science and Technology and Founder of the Costa Rican Social Movement: Coalition Costa Rica, impacting the 2018 presidential vote.



Antonio Ortega

General Secretary of Political Party: Frente Amplio. A progressive political alternative of the democratic and socialist left, which seeks to build together with the communities, social, trade and environmental sectors a more prosperous, inclusive, supportive and cultured Costa Rica.



Vivi Calderón

President of the Liberationist Youth of Costa Rica. The PLN (The National Liberation Party) is one of the traditional political parties of Costa Rica.



Silvia Nadine

Former deputy at the Nicaraguan National Assembly and currently the Executive Director of the Nicaraguan Youth Organization PUENTE (Political Activism), and member and leader of capacity building strategies for the Sandinista Renovation Movement.



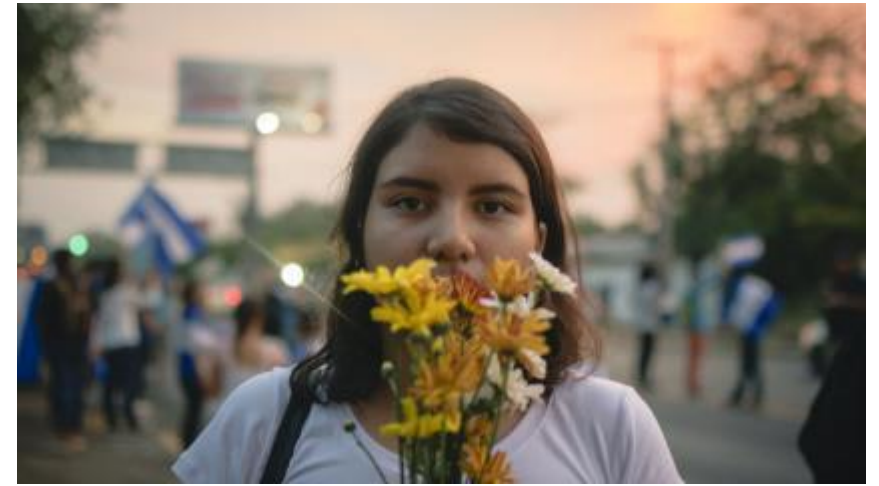
Gloria Carrión

Film Director and Executive Producer at Caja de Luz, S.A and an International Consultant for the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. She talks with students about the negative impacts of the DR-CAFTA in the Central American with a special focus on Nicaragua.



Madeline Caracas: University student, Leader and Women's Rights Activist. She was a member of the first National Dialogue started to find an exit to the Nicaraguan crisis. Today she is a living as a refugee in Costa Rica.

Gabriel Benavente: Graphic Designer and Artist. Had to leave Nicaragua because of the Socio-Political crisis. He talks about art as a weapon of political activism and resistance.



Yaser Morazan: Sociologist, political activist and expert on Cyber-activism. He talks about the role of Social Media in the Nicaraguan socio-political crisis.



Jose Montoya: Known as Chepito Barricada is a University student and Political Activist. He joined the road blockades in the City of León in Nicaragua, demanding the stepping down of Daniel Ortega from Power. He talks with students about the role of youth in the socio-political crisis and the importance of University Autonomy.



Los Pastora: Miguel y Pastorcita Sojo

Community Leaders of the Bajo Pacuare. They share an inspiring experience on how they organized with the Indigenous People and stopped the construction of a Hydroelectric Project that would affect the livelihoods of the families that live close to the Pacuare River.



AMCHAM

The Costa Rican- American Chambers of Commerce. The chamber promotes, protects and generates business relations in Costa Rica. We visit their office and representatives of AMCHAM talk about the CAFTA-Central American Free Trade Agreements and its positive impacts in Central American.



- Cooperative-COOCAFÉ: COOCAFE is the first Fair Trade certified entity in Costa Rica, offering coffee of all qualities and coffee regions of Costa Rica to the national and international market; It also has its product line finished in coffee, tubers and others.
- Currently its private and commercial brands of green and roasted coffee, are distributed in Costa Rica and parts of the world such as Japan, USA, England, Belgium, Spain and many others.



Organization: COKOMAL

A non-profit civil society organization of the social and solidarity economy, responsible for society and the environment.





Youth Organization: Ambassadors of the Sea

A non-profit community initiative to promote purposeful diving among young people in the South Caribbean to create opportunities and to build local capacities in attention to the sea: their legacies and their health.

The Network of Women for Development

The Network is made up of groups of women from popular sectors who lead solidarity ventures in the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as advisors and organizations that support women.

We meet with:

- **Olga Parrado:** Executive Director.
- **Katya Armengol:** Indigenous woman of the Bri Bri People. Member of the Network, during the course students are able to visit her sustainable farm at Suretka, Talamanca (Atlantic Coast of Costa Rica).

