RESEARCH LUNCH SERIES

THE MEDIA AND POPULISM IN LATIN AMERICA:
LESSONS FOR THE US AND BEYOND

Dr. Silvio R. Waisbord

Dr. Waisbord is Professor of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University. He is Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Communication and previous Editor-in-Chief of The International Journal of Press/Politics. He is author of several books, including Media Movements: Civil Society and Media Policy Reform in Latin America (2016, with Soledad Segura) and Watchdog Journalism in South America: News, Accountability & Democracy (2000, 2016).

A progressive model of public communication is grounded in the existence of a public commons that facilitates and promotes informed public dialogue characterized by civility, diversity, tolerance, reason, and facts. This model historically entailed the guarantee of constitutional rights and the presence of institutional settings to produce information and catalyze public debate. By challenging many of the underlying principles of the progressive notion of the public sphere, populism, as a political strategy and a discursive frame, has a troubling relationship with progressive public communication even while existing within formally democratic settings.

Waisbord reviews Latin American, US and European variants of populism from the perspective of communication and media studies, seeking commonalities and divergences that clarify and deepen our understanding of its current manifestations and impacts.

Friday, March 24, 2017

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

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