

Theodore Kahn, Ph.D

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Expert in global public policy, development policy, and Latin American and Caribbean politics, with ten years of experience in the private sector, multilateral organizations, and academia. Advisor to multinational companies on political, regulatory, social, and security risks in Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname. I have worked as a consultant to various international organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank on international trade, foreign investment, governance, and anti-corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean and have authored numerous publications on these topics.

Education

PhD in International Relations *2013-2017*
Johns Hopkins University School of
Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

MA in International Affairs *2009-2011*
Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

BA in Government *2002-2006*
Harvard University

Professional experience

CONTROL RISKS *October 2021-present*
Senior Analyst, Global Risk Analysis

- Principal analyst of political, security, regulatory, and social risks Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, advising multinational companies in the energy, infrastructure, mining, consumer goods, and agriculture sectors.
- Developed a tailored risk matrix with escalating risk levels and indicators to facilitate monitoring of political, economic, and regulatory risk for a multinational consumer goods company
- Analyzed scenarios for the 2022 presidential elections in Colombia and their implications for the economy and business operations of clients in the health, consumer goods, and paper sectors.
- Identified and assessed medium and long-term political, economic, social risks for a multinational paper company considering an investment in Colombia

FEDESARROLLO, Bogotá Colombia
Researcher

February 2019-Sept. 2021

- Designed methodology to identify and prioritize competitiveness gaps in Colombia's departments (regional governments) and strengthen the capacities of the Regional Competitiveness Commissions; implemented methodology in three pilot departments; developed recommendations to reform the institutional structure of the National Competitiveness and Innovation System
- Analyzed the approval and performance of investment projects financed with natural resource royalties and implemented by subnational governments in the context of Colombia's General Royalties System (SGR); presented results and policy recommendations to National Planning Department (DNP) officials
- Member of the technical secretariat of the Mission of Anticorruption Experts organized by Fedesarrollo; conducted interviews with government, private sector, and civil society leaders and comparative research on diverse aspects of Colombia's anticorruption laws and institutions

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
Consultant, Integration and Trade Sector

April 2020 – December 2021

- Authored white paper outlining a strategy to deepen economic relations and cooperation between Latin America and the European Union in the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on trade and investment, value chain integration, development financing, digitalization, and climate change
- Developed presentations and talking points for Bank executives engaging with high-level public and private sector officials in Europe

Consultant, Institutions and Development Sector

January 2018-December 2018

- Analyzed the use of digital technologies in transparency and anticorruption policies in public procurement and public investment systems in Latin America
- Authored technical paper based on review of the specialized literature and international experiences to identify good practices and recommendations for Latin American countries

Consultant, Integration and Trade Sector

January 2012 - December 2018

- Analyzed economic relations and cooperation between Latin America and Asia, including trade and investment trends, free trade agreements, development cooperation, and infrastructure projects; constructed an original database of the operations of Latin America firms in China, and developed policy recommendations to strengthen economic integration
- Identified opportunities for cooperation between governments in Latin America and Asia on foreign trade and investment, infrastructure and connectivity, technological development, and education
- Developed speech drafts, blog posts, and talking points to support strategic communication of the Sector's work and the results of its research agenda

- Authored numerous technical documents to support high-level dialogues among private and public sector leaders in Latin America and Asia

Consultant, Institutional Capacity of the State Division

March 2011- December 2011

- Supported the design and execution of technical cooperation projects to implement access to information legislation in El Salvador and improve legislative transparency in Chile
- Researched and co-authored a technical note on the impact of information and communications technologies on public sector management and service delivery
- Designed and developed a webpage for the transparency and integrity work line within the Division and wrote short communications material to promote the Division's activities

OXFORD ANALYTICA, London
Latin America Area Expert

March 2014 - present

- Author intelligence briefings for corporate clients on Latin America international economics, with a country focus on Mexico and Colombia; topics include trade and investment policy, free trade agreements, economic relations with Asia, global value chains, and domestic economic policy
- Participate in specialized panels and forums for public and private sector leaders

WORLD BANK, Washington, DC
Consultant, Global Poverty and Inequality Practice

November 2017- June 2018

- Supported the development of the Systematic Country Diagnosis for Mexico; produced conceptual and empirical analysis of the principal governance barriers to growth and equity in Mexico, to orient the Bank's multiyear strategy in Mexico
- Analyzed the relationship between decentralization, subnational governance, and regional growth in Mexico to identify regional development strategies for the Bank

GLOBAL INTEGRITY, Washington DC
Research intern

September 2010 - February 2011

- Designed indicators to evaluate the implementation of access to information legislation at the state level in Mexico
- Wrote report of best practices in participative citizen monitoring to be presented at workshop of non-governmental organizations in developing countries

FUNDACIÓN CIPPEC, Buenos Aires 2010
Intern

June 2010 - August 2010

- Published working document on executive transitions in Latin America as part of initiative to improve government transition processes at the subnational level in Argentina

Teaching experience

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (SAIS) Adjunct Professor, Department of International Economics and Finance	2017- 2018; 2020-present
UNIVERSIDAD DE BOGOTÁ JORGE TADEO LOZANO Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science	2019- 2020
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science	2017- 2018
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Adjunct Professor, Department of International Economic Relations	2017- 2018
UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA-PUEBLA Visiting Professor, Department of International Relations	2014-2016

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles and books

“Public investment versus government consumption: how FDI shocks shape the composition of subnational spending in Mexico,” 2020. with Zack Zimbalist *Review of International Political Economy* (2020)

“How do local public spending decisions shape corruption perceptions? Evidence from Mexico.” *Revise and resubmit – Latin America Politics and Society*; April 2021

Government-Business Relations and Regional Development in Post-Reform Mexico. 2019. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan Press

“Regional Public Goods Cooperation: An Inductive Approach to Measuring Regional Public Goods,” in Antoni Esteveordal y Louis Goodman (eds.) *21st Century Cooperation Regional Public Goods, Global Governance, and Sustainable Development*. 2017. Routledge Press (with Ted Liu)

“The Region Needs a Business Plan: Trade between Latin America, China, and India”, in Riordan Roett and Guadalupe Paz (eds.) *Latin America and the Asian Giants Evolving Ties with China and India*. 2016 Brookings Institution Press (with Robert Devlin)

“Future Scenarios for Latin America’s Relations with China and India”, in Riordan Roett and Guadalupe Paz (eds.) *Latin America and the Asian Giants Evolving Ties with China and India*. 2016. Brookings Institution Press (with Mauricio Mesquita Moreira)

Technical documents and working papers

“Cierre de brechas de competitividad departamental en el marco de las Comisiones Regionales de Competitividad e Innovación.” Bogotá: Fedesarrollo with Luis Fernando Mejía,

Astrid Martínez, Alfredo Bateman, Juan G. Zapata, Tomás Martín, y Martha Delgado. December 2020.

“Ciclos electorales y las características y desempeño de los proyectos del Sistema General de Regalías.” Working paper. Fedesarrollo July 2020.

“Editorial: Reformas anticorrupción”, en *Tendencia Económica. Informe Mensual de Fedesarrollo*. No. 200. December 2019.

“Digital Technologies for Transparency in Public Investment: New Tools to Empower Citizens and Governments.” Discussion Paper No. IDB-DP-634. Inter-American Development Bank, 2018.

“Toward a Common Trade Agenda: Latin America and India”. *Integration and Trade Journal*. July 2017.

“Korea: New Frontiers in the Asia-Latin America Relationship”, Inter-American Development Bank, 2017.

“A Virtuous Cycle of Integration: The Past, Present, and Future of Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Relations”, Inter-American Development Bank, 2016.

“Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean: Striving for a Diverse and Dynamic Relationship” Inter-American Development Bank, 2015.

“LAC Investment in China: A New Chapter in Latin America and the Caribbean-China Relations” IDB monograph series; 138. Inter-American Development Bank, 2014.

“Japan and Latin America: Building a Sustainable Trans-Pacific Relationship”, Inter-American Development Bank, 2013.

“Pathways to China: The Story of Latin American Firms in the Chinese Market”, Inter-American Development Bank, 2012.

“Cooperation between Latin America and Asia: Forging Linkages beyond Trade and Investment”, in Mauricio Mesquita Moreira (ed.) *Shaping the Future of the Asia-Latin America and the Caribbean Relationship* (2012)

“From Information to Participation: The Potential of New Technologies in Accountability Initiatives,” with Paloma Baena. Discussion Paper No. 355. Inter-American Development Bank, 2012.

“Presidential Transitions in Latin America: Lessons from the North” Working Paper. Fundación CIPPEC, 2011.

Selected media publications

“Does the Colombian Center Stand a Chance?”, February 16, 2022,

<https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/does-the-colombian-center-stand-a-chance/>

“Corruption in Mexico: A Challenge that Dwarfs Donald Trump”, December 9, 2016,

<https://semancha.com/2016/12/09/corruption-in-mexico- a-challenge-that-dwarfs-donald-trump/>

“The Trump-AMLO Connection: More Complicated Than It Seems”, August 8, 2016,

<https://semancha.com/2016/08/08/the-trump-amlo- connection-more-complicated-than-it-seems/>

“The Real Lesson of Mexico’s State Elections” *Americas Quarterly Online*. June 9, 2016,

<http://www.americasquarterly.org/content/real-lesson- mexicos-state-elections>

“Impeachment in Brazil: After the chips fall”, April 22, 2016,

<https://semancha.com/2016/04/22/impeachment-in-brazil-after-the-chips- fall/>

“Mexico’s Mid-term Elections: Six Questions”, June 3, 2015,

<http://semancha.com/2015/06/03/mexicos- mid-term-elections-six-questions/>

Languages

English: native speaker

Spanish: fluent

Portuguese: basic

Other skills

Econometrics and quantitative data analysis (Stata); LaTeX; qualitative research; strategic communication