



Announcing Recipients of the Annual LeoGrande Award

American University's School of Public Affairs and Center for Latin American and Latino Studies are pleased to announce the winners of 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, and the William M. LeoGrande Prize, for the best book on U.S.-Latin American relations, for 2022.

Marcelo Bohrt, Assistant Professor in the School of International Service, is the recipient of the William M. LeoGrande Award for his excellent article, "Race and Diplomatic Bureaucracy: State-Building in Nineteenth-century Bolivia as a Response to Transnational Racialization Threats," published in 2021 in the journal *Global Historical Sociology of Race and Racism*. Prof. Bohrt's article displays significant originality in the ways it connects processes of state-making in Latin America to questions of race, but also to the often-overlooked question of external image management. At a moment when scholars are advancing our understanding of race as a key element in nation-building globally and in this hemisphere, and where we are increasingly aware of how race continues to animate public debate around inclusion, citizenship, and what is meant by membership in the body politic, Prof. Bohrt's deft development of the concept of "racial inadequacy" in this study as a dimension of Bolivian elites' diplomatic efforts to counter foreign impressions of their country is a timely reminder of the ways conceptions of race have been essential and exclusionary components of nation-building.

William Michael Schmidli, currently an Assistant Professor in the Institute for History at Leiden University, is this year's winner of the William M. LeoGrande Prize. His book, *Freedom on the Offensive: Human Rights, Democracy Promotion, and US Interventionism in the Late Cold War* (Cornell University Press, 2022), is a well-researched account of how neoconservatives and the Reagan administration came to adopt a human rights narrative after they were initially allied to right wing authoritarian governments across Latin America and the Global South. Schmidli convincingly demonstrates that Washington's imperial toolbox evolved over the course of the 1980s, with the Right initially portraying democracy as a manifestation of American weakness during the post-Vietnam and Carter years, before pivoting during the Reagan era to deploy democracy promotion as a weapon to advance its interests and legitimize its broader agenda in the international system. Schmidli's book sheds valuable and timely new light on the relationships between human rights and democracy promotion in American foreign policy toward Latin America at the end of the Cold War.

The William M. LeoGrande Award and Prize were established in 2012 to honor Bill 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.