The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies

Alternative ways to modernity in Latin America: Ecuador and Bolivia

Date: Thursday, June 7, 2012  ●  Time: 3-4:30 pm
Place: Deutz Room in the Copley International Conference Center, Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD

In this lecture I will analyze the cultural, social and political developments that have taken place mainly in Ecuador and Bolivia, which have been conducive to the approval of the new constitutions in both countries. According to the intention of the new social actors, these new constitutions are the way to put in place a new and different model of society, culture and State as an alternative to the western civilization and to the western uni-national state. I will examine the extent in which these projects have been successful, or are becoming a source for new problems.

José María Arregui Aramburu (a.k.a. Joseba Arregi) was born in 1946 in Andoain, Spain. I completed my first Ph.D. in Theology in Münster, Germany at the Wilhelms-Universität. Some years later I obtained a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Deusto, in Bilbao, Spain. My professional life has been shared between politics and teaching. In terms of teaching, I have been a professor at the University School for Teachers in San Sebastián where I taught History of Ideas, and now I am a professor at the University of the Basque Country in the Department of Social Sciences where I teach Sociology of Knowledge and Cultural Sociology in the Basque language. In politics, I have been a member of the Basque Government and also a member of the Basque Parliament. I have published five books about Nationalism and the integration of the State. Also, I worked as a political analyst in many Spanish media and as a business and political consultant. The focus of my academic work has been mainly about nationalism in its relation to the State and to the Rule of Law. Consequently, I have dedicated five books to this topic and two of the most relevant are La Nación vasca posible (Editorial Crítica, Barcelona, 2000), and Dos modelos de Estado: La historia y la norma (Estudios Goberna, INAP, Madrid, 2005). In recent years, I have worked mainly on the subjects of Terrorism and on the Victims of Terrorism. Currently, Joseba is a Visiting Scholar in CILAS, UCSD.

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