The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies

● Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) as a Threat to Central American Democracies and Security of the USA
   by Lidija Kos-Stanisic

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011 ● Time: 3-4:30 pm
Place: Deutz Room in the Copley International Conference Center, Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD

The states of Central America are historically a zone of extended American security consideration and American foreign policy considers the weak democracies in the region as an important threat to the USA and hemisphere security. In this lecture, Lidija will show how DTOs influence the functioning of democracies in Central America. First, there will be an introduction into the problems of democratization of Central America and US security. Second, the current type of democracy in the Central American states will be defined, and an analysis weather and how six Central American states, especially the Northern Triangle countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) are influenced by DTOs. Finally, it will be pointed out how DTOs are challenging the Northern Triangle Central American defective democracies and are threatening US security.

Lidija Kos-Stanišić received her degrees from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She received a double major in History and Art History in 1992, a BA in Museum Science and a MS in Political Science (International Relations) in 1999. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science (International Relations) in 2004. Her Ph.D. dissertation, “New Civilizational Groupings and the Future of Latin America,” opened the study of the Latin American region in the field of Political Science and so far she is the only Croatian political science expert in Croatia. Lidija is an Associate Professor (International Relations) at the University of Zagreb and she teaches the following courses: Comparative Politics of Latin America, Latin America and the Contemporary World, and Contemporary Civilizations.

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