The Social Construction of Citizenship: Social Movements and Political Parties in the Spanish Transition to Democracy

**When:** Thursday, October 1, 2009 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Deutz Room, Institute of the Americas, UCSD Campus

Laraña’s presentation deals with the process of transition to democracy in Spain, which has been viewed as a model for non-democratic countries due to its pacific nature. However, the unintended consequences of that model are manifest thirty years later in two different ways: as a source of strains and bankruptcy among the political class and also of interesting developments that have strengthened civil society in the last twelve years. Governmental politics against Basque terrorism and claims for independence of nationalist parties lie at the core of numerous relevant controversies and the big scale mobilizations they produced since 1996. From an action perspective grounded on his research of voluntary organizations, their framing activities and political opportunities, he analyzes a process of social change by which certain civic organizations have reached a strong definitional power in these controversies, have promoted a new civic culture and have laid the grounds for an efficient fight against the Basque terrorist organization. This process counteracts the perverse consequences of the transitional model and provides a high social effervescence to his country, which made his capital one of the most mobilized cities of the Western world. Spain's transition to democracy preceded the end of the dictatorships in Latin America and, as such -- given political historical commonalities -- Spain became a legible political model for Latin American political developments.

**Enrique Laraña** is Professor of Sociology at the University Complutense of Madrid (UCM). He obtained his Ph.D. and M. A. in Sociology from the University of California Santa Barbara with a dissertation on the student movements of the sixties based on his research at Berkeley.

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This event is co-sponsored by the IICAS European Studies, at the Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies.

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