



## MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES



### **ÁNGEL AYALÓN**

Professor of Economics and Public Policy at IESA. Partner at Lexstrategy (an economic and regulatory consultancy). Director and Founder of Prodavinci.

Prof. Ayalón has written extensively on political economy, economic analysis of law and contracts, and regulation. He has also conducted frequently-cited research on crime and insecurity in Venezuela and their underlying causes. Previously, he served at the National Commission for Investor Protection, and has worked as a consultant for several companies and institutions on issues ranging from regulation to competitive practices. He has taught at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, and was a partner at the consultancy Torres, Plaz & Araujo. In 2002, he founded the prestigious online group Prodavinci, which serves as a platform for innovative analysis geared towards economic development and progress. Ayalón received his degree in Economics from UCAB and a MA in Public Policy from The University of Chicago.



### **CARLOS BLANCO**

Visiting Professor of International Relations at Boston University. Professor at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. Fellow of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University.

Carlos Blanco has served as Minister for Reform of the State and President of the Presidential Commission for State Reform in Venezuela (COPRE, 1989-1992). He has been a TV presenter, and founded and directed a weekly political magazine, *Primicia*. He has also been President and Secretary General of the Latin American Center for Administrative Development. Blanco has published numerous books, including most recently *Un Programa para el Cambio: La Reforma del Estado en Venezuela* (2010). He holds a PhD and a MS from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

### **MÓNICA DOHNERT**

Consultant with ample experience in the design and implementation of social policy and programs in local government. Senior advisor to the mayor of municipio Sucre, Estado Miranda, Venezuela (2009-present). President of the foundation for Social Development of the State of Miranda, Venezuela (2000-2004), alternate Congresswoman in Venezuela's National Assembly for Primero Justicia (2000-2005) and General Manager for the Foundation for Justice and Democracy (2005). Coauthor of the book "Tras las Huellas de la Participación Ciudadana: promoviendo el capital social para superar la pobreza." Founder and executive director of the NGO "Construyendo Juntos" which is committed to the design of collective learning experiences that strengthen citizen participation, local development, and social and cultural transformation within public, private, community and citizen organizations. Mónica obtained an M.A. in International Relations and Communications from Boston University (1996) and is a Systems Engineer from the Universidad Metropolitana, Venezuela (1993).



### **RAMÓN ESPINASA**

Senior Oil and Gas Specialist at the Energy Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). Adjunct Professor of Hemispheric Energy Security at Georgetown University.

Dr. Espinasa has previously worked as a Consultant in the field of Hydrocarbons for the Research and Integration Departments at the IADB. He has also worked as a Consultant for the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the World Bank (IBRD) in Oil related issues in the Andes and the Middle East. For twenty years, up to 1999, he worked at Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) where he was Chief Economist between 1992 and 1999. Dr. Espinasa is an Industrial Engineer from Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas (1974) and holds degrees of Ph.D. and M. Phil in Energy Economics and Economic Development from the University of Cambridge and a Master in Economic Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.



### **ALEJANDRO GRISANTI**

Senior Economist and Director of Latin America Research for Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Central America & the Caribbean at Barclays Capital. Founder and Executive Director of Ecoanalítica, an economic consultancy.

He has also served as the Chief Economist of the Banco de Venezuela, Santander group (2000-2004). He has taught in the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB) and at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA). Grisanti has been a member of the Venezuelan American Chamber of Commerce, and has served as a consultant for the IDB. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and degrees in economics and computer engineering from UCAB and the Universidad Simón Bolívar, respectively.



### **RICARDO HAUSMANN**

Director of the Center for International Development and Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at Harvard University.

Previously, he served as the first Chief Economist of the IDB (1994-2000). He has served as Minister of Planning of Venezuela (1992-1993) and as a member of the Board of the Central Bank of Venezuela. He also served as Chair of the IMF-World Bank Development Committee.

He was Professor of Economics at IESA (1985-1991) in Caracas, where he founded the Center for Public Policy. He holds a PhD in economics from Cornell University.



### **ANA JULIA JATAR-HAUSMANN**

Fellow at the Center for International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School

Dr. Jatar is also anchor and producer of *Se ven las Caras*, an interview television program which will begin airing on April 1<sup>st</sup> on *Cuencavision*, a local channel in Boston. She currently has an op-ed column in *El Nacional* and serves on the editorial committee of both this newspaper and *Analiticapremium*, a well known online publication. From 1994 to 2001 Dr. Jatar was a senior fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue. She was also host of CNN's *Choque de opiniones* and host of *Descifrado en la radio*, a Venezuelan radio show. From 2005 to 2007, she served as member of the Executive Committee and Director of *Súmame*. Dr. Jatar received her MBA from York University in Toronto, Canada and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.



### **LUIS VICENTE LEÓN**

Director of Datanálisis, Venezuela's leading polling firm. Professor of Economics and Market Research at the UCAB and at the IESA. Columnist for the Venezuelan newspaper El Universal.

León graduated with a degree in Economics from UCAB, and holds a Masters in Managerial Engineering from the Universidad Simón Bolívar, as well as degrees from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the National Taiwan University, among others. Since 1992, he has specialized in economic, political, and social forecasting through Datanálisis. He currently serves as Director of the Venezuelan Executive Association, and has served as Director of the Venezuelan Industrial Federation (CONINDUSTRIA). He is the author of numerous books.



### **LORENZO A. MENDOZA GIMENEZ**

CEO and Member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Empresas Polar, the largest private company in Venezuela. Director of Fundación Polar, the largest private foundation in Latin America.

Empresas Polar, which Mr. Mendoza has led as CEO since 1999, is the leading food and beverages group with over 34,000 employees and constituting almost 4% of the Venezuelan non-oil GDP. Mr. Mendoza is also a Director of the following institutions: TELEVISA, the largest media group in Latin America, the MIT Sloan Board, the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce, the Group of Fifty, and the World Economic Forum, who in 2005 named him a Young Global Leader. He is widely recognized for his commitment to corporate social responsibility, having especially focused on the areas of child nutrition and social inclusion through sports. Mr. Mendoza holds an Industrial Engineering degree and an MBA from the Sloan School of Management at MIT.



### **FRANCISCO MONALDI**

Director and Professor of the International Center on Energy and the Environment at IESA. Professor of Economics at the UCAB.

Monaldi holds a BA in Economics from UCAB, a MA in Development Economics from Yale University, and a PhD and a MA in Political Science from Stanford University. He was a visiting Professor of Political Economy at Stanford, and was a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution. He has worked as a consultant for the IDB and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), as well as served on the Board of Directors of several Venezuelan firms. Monaldi has written extensively on the political economy of oil and has published numerous academic articles.



**JUAN CARLOS NAVARRO**

Chief of the Education Unit, Science and Technology Division at the IDB.

Dr. Navarro holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, and a Master in Public Policy from Georgetown University. He has taught social and education policy at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello and at IESA, as well as worked as a visiting scholar at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He has extensive experience as a consultant in social programs for the World Bank, UNICEF, and the Harvard Center for International Development. He has published several books and articles on topics ranging from teacher careers to higher education reform.