



Winner of LAPOP 2011 Best Paper Award

The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) at Vanderbilt University is delighted to announce that the winner of our 2011 Best Paper Award is Leslie Schwindt-Bayer, for her paper “Gender Quotas and Women’s Political Participation in Latin America.” Dr. Schwindt-Bayer is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Missouri. The award committee was impressed by this paper’s strong theoretical framework as well as its application of both case study research and sophisticated cross-national analysis of public opinion data. The paper addresses a theoretically important and policy-relevant question: Do quotas for women within the legislature affect citizens’, and especially women’s, levels of political engagement in the countries in which they are implemented? The paper concludes that while gender quotas have had important impacts by increasing women’s representation at the elite level across Latin America, they appear to have had little effect on political participation or interest among the region’s female citizens.

This is the inaugural year of this award, which honors one of the papers submitted by scholars who received a 2011 Small Grant or Data Award with which to conduct research using AmericasBarometer and LAPOP data. In selecting the winner, the committee took into account the theoretical and empirical rigor of the paper as well as its relevance to the theme of marginalization and democracy. In June 2011, LAPOP announced winners of its 2011 Small Grants and Data competition for research related to discrimination, marginalization, and democracy. This theme is part of the AmericasBarometer’s focus for its 2012 round of surveys. The Small Grants and Data competition is possible due to generous support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Professor Schwindt-Bayer will present her research and receive the award at the conference, “Marginalization in the Americas: A View from the AmericasBarometer,” on Friday, October 27, 2011. This conference is co-sponsored by LAPOP and by the Miami Consortium, a joint project of the University of Miami and Florida International University, and it will be held on the University of Miami campus.

To read this paper and the other papers written by authors of the 2011 LAPOP Small Grants and Data Awards, please see our website:

www.AmericasBarometer.org