



Center for Latin American Studies

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INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED VENEZUELAN JOURNALIST AND POLITICIAN TO SPEAK AT UF

Gainesville, FL – Teodoro Petkoff, founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Tal Cual* newspaper in Venezuela, will speak at the University of Florida on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at the Smathers Libraries (East), Room 1A at 4 pm. He will speak on “*Venezuela: Political and Economic Realities*.” The event is free and open to the public.

Teodoro Petkoff is a Venezuelan politician, journalist and economist. In 1971, Petkoff founded the Movement towards Socialism (MAS) political party. In the second government of Rafael Caldera (1994-1999), he served as Minister of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning. Petkoff eventually left the MAS and became a journalist, working as director of *El Mundo*. Later, he founded his own newspaper, *Tal Cual*. Petkoff was a member of the Venezuelan Congress and ran for President against Hugo Chávez in 2006. He is known for his criticism of President Hugo Chávez and Chavismo. Petkoff has authored several political books, including *The Two Lefts* (“*Las dos izquierdas*,” Alfadil Editor, Hogueras Collection, 2005) in which he analyzed the resurgence of left-wing politics in Latin America. He holds a degree in Economics from the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) where he also served as a professor.

Petkoff’s visit is sponsored by UF’s Center for Latin American Studies, the US Department of Education’s Title VI National Resource Center Program, the UF George A. Smathers Libraries, and the UF Venezuelan Student Association.

Founded in 1930, the University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies advances knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the hemisphere. With over 170 faculty from colleges across UF, the Center is one of the largest institutions for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach on Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies. Programs include Tropical Conservation and Development, Law and Policy in the Americas, and Latin American Business Environment, among others.

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