



Center for Latin American Studies

319 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115530
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530
352-392-0375
352-392-7682 Fax
www.latam.ufl.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2009

Christopher Birkbeck to Deliver Bacardi Lecture on *Crime in Latin America and the U.S.*

Gainesville, FL – Professor Christopher Birkbeck, the UF Center for Latin American Studies Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar for Spring 2009, will deliver the 2009 Bacardi Lecture on "*The Matter of Crime as an Expression of Identity: Observations from Latin America and the U.S.*," on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7:30 pm, Reitz Union Auditorium, Room 282.

Christopher Birkbeck is a distinguished researcher in the field of comparative criminology and a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Salford in Manchester, England. He is also an Emeritus Professor of Criminology at the University of the Andes in Merida, Venezuela. Dr. Birkbeck has spent over 20 years carrying out research on crime in Latin America. He has published widely both in Spanish and in leading criminology journals in the US. He has considerable experience advising governments as well as the United Nations. His current research focuses on police use of force and alternatives to imprisonment.

While the Bacardi Scholar in residence, Dr. Birkbeck is teaching a graduate seminar on comparative crime issues in Latin America and the United States. In addition, he is collaborating with UF faculty members from the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Criminology to institutionalize an interdisciplinary research and graduate training program on Crime, Law and Governance in the Americas.

The Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar Chair in Latin American Studies was established in 1991 through the leadership of Bacardi Imports, Inc. and the collaboration of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the state of Florida. The endowment allows the Center for Latin American Studies to invite distinguished scholars and public figures to teach, lecture, mentor students and carry out research at the University.

Founded in 1930, the mission of the UF Center for Latin American Studies is to advance 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.

For further information contact:
Carmen Diana Deere
deere@latam.ufl.edu
(352) 392-0375 X801