

Looking Ahead Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center in 2019

One word will define 2019 for Latin America (and the world): uncertainty. Three new presidents in the region's largest countries have jumpstarted their agendas. Juan Guaidó has assumed the interim presidency in Venezuela. The USMCA awaits next steps in Congress. China continues to increase its regional economic footprint. And Central American migration continues, as push factors remain.

But one trend is certain: what happens in the Americas will increasingly have global ramifications.

The changes afoot represent immense opportunities for Latin America. But navigating the risks – and their implications – will require rapid reaction analysis alongside longer term strategy. At the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, this is our focus for 2019: working with partners to set the agenda around top priority items and the US role.

Here's what we're watching and where we will lean in:



Venezuela's Crisis and the Road Ahead

Guaidó as interim president; Maduro increasingly backed into a corner

Our goal: Help drive the restoration of democracy and the alleviation of human suffering.



China's Role in Latin America

China expands economic footprint; Belt and Road gains steam

Our goal: Provide a more nuanced understanding of China's presence – both in the US and in Latin America.



Mexico: US Ties and Global Commerce

AMLO year one; economic opportunities but USMCA hangs in the balance

Our goal: Deepen bilateral relations at national/subnational levels while raising awareness of the benefits from a strong commercial relationship.



Disinformation Expands

Elections seen as opportunities for spreading fake news – a threat to democracy

Our goal: Expose and explain misinformation and disinformation through real-time reporting and trainings with local stakeholders.



A New Colombia Roadmap

Duque works toward stabilizing territories; economic growth but new security challenges

Our goal: Develop a plan for the Duque administration and the new US Congress on how to deepen and expand the US-Colombia relationship.



The Future of Central America

Violence, poverty, lack of governance persists in the Northern Triangle; migration continues

Our goal: Shift the narrative on Central America to focus on in-country solutions that can reduce violence and insecurity and generate greater economic opportunities.



A Changing Brazil Agenda

Bolsonaro takes office; priority placed on opening to new investment, addressing crime and corruption

Our goal: Drive home new ways in which Brazil's potential as a global player can be unleashed.

2019 is a pivotal year. It will shape the trajectory of Latin America for years to come. After [celebrating five years](#), the expanded Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center will double-down to deploy its high-impact work in shaping the conversation among policymakers, the business community, and civil society on pressing political, economic, and social issues that will define the trajectory of the region in the years ahead.

I look forward to you [joining us](#) at this time of great change for Latin America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Marczak', is positioned above the printed name.

Jason Marczak

Center Leadership:

Jason Marczak, Director

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