DRCLAS Harvard University - Chile Regional Office December 2020 - February 2024





# Webinar Series Report ACADEMIC FORUM FOR THE NEW CONSTITUTION IN CHILE

Initiative led by **Steven Levitsky,** Professor of Government, Harvard University; Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

Verónica Figueroa, Universidad de Chile
Claudio Fuentes, Universidad Diego Portales
Claudia Heiss, Universidad de Chile
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Cristián Rodríguez, DRCLAS Visiting Scholar
Sol Serrano, Universidad Católica de Chile
Sebastián Soto, Universidad Católica de Chile



## CONTENT

- Background
- Our contribution
- Results
- Conclusions

#### **BACKGROUND**



CHILE'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS



As a result of the protests that began in **October 2019** throughout the country, most political parties signed an agreement to draft a **new Constitution.** 

On October 25, 2020, in a national plebiscite, citizens decided by a large majority (78%) to draft a new Constitution by a Constitutional Convention. In a ratification plebiscite held on September 4, 2022, the proposed text was rejected by 61,9% of the population.

#### **BACKGROUND**



#### CHILE'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS

On May 7, 2023, Chilean citizens elected 50 members of a new Constitutional Council for a second constitutional proposal. After the completion of the Council's work, another ratification plebiscite took place on **December 17, 2023.** 

The proposal was **rejected** once again, this time **by 55,8%**, and the **process came to an end.** As there was no mention of a third process, the 1980 Constitution, that has been reformed around 70 times, remained in place.



#### **OUR CONTRIBUTION**







**COUNTRIES (OUR AUDIENCE)** 

35

**COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS** 

**DRCLAS TUESDAY SEMINAR** 

SPEAKERS (SCHOLARS,
PRACTITIONERS AND OPINION LEADERS)

## **OUR CONTRIBUTION**

## GLOBAL THEMATIC WEBINARS

2020

Oecember 2

2021

- January 29
- March 19
- May 4
- June 16
- October 6
- November 10
- Oecember 9







Haynote Speaker: STEVEN LEVITSKY, Harvard University Co-author of How Democrocks Die

NÉRCOLES, 2 DE DICIEMBRE (DSpm (CHILE)









## GLOBAL THEMATIC WEBINARS

#### 2022

- March 30
- April 20 July 13

#### 2023

- May 31
- December 7





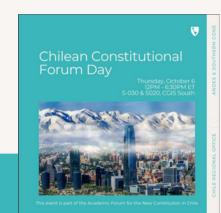






## **OUR CONTRIBUTION**

#### CONSTITUTIONAL FORUM AT HARVARD



#### 12:00 PM Coffee

12:10 PM First Panel, Student Reflection: Harvard Association of Chilean Students

- **Pablo Eguiguren**, MPA-ID & MBA Candidate, Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School, Rubenstein Fellow
- · María Elisa Zavala, Associate, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
- Moderated by: Claudia Bobadilla, ALI Fellow 2022, Founder Puente Social Foundation 2:00 PM Second Panel, Academic Reflection: Advisory Committee Members from the Academic Forum for the New Constitution in Chile
- · Claudio Fuentes, Professor, Political Science, Universidad Diego Portales
- · Cristián Rodríguez-Chiffelle, DRCLAS Luksic Visiting Scholar 2022-2023
- · Sol Serrano, Professor Institute of History, Universidad Católica de Chile
- · Discussant: Mark Tushnet, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, Emeritus, Harvard University
- Moderated by: Steven Levitsky, Director, David Rockefeller Center for Latin America Studies and Professor of

Government, Harvard University 4:00 PM Third panel, Institutional Reflection

- Patricio Fernández Chadwick, journalist and writer, former member of the Chilean Constitutional Convention
- · Ximena Rincón, Senator of Chile
- **Rodrigo Vergara**, Senior Researcher CEP, Fmr. President Central Bank, Chile and Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School, Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government
- **Discussant: David Landau**, Dean for International Programs, and Mason Ladd Professor of Law and Associate, Florida State University
- Moderated by: Steven Levitsky, Director, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and Professor of Government, Harvard University 5:30 PM Reception

✓ 100 + participants

October 6

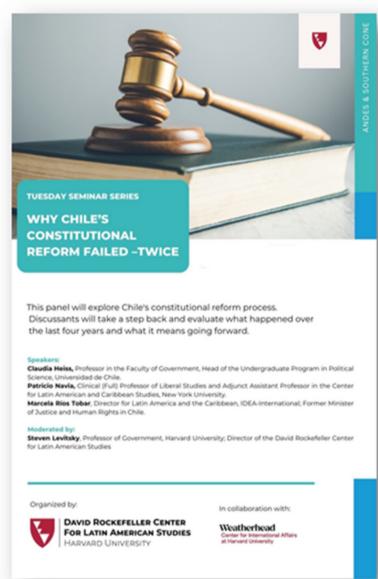
2021

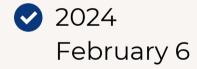
As Chileans rewrite their Constitution, what kind of **democratic innovation** might bring political and policy decision-making closer to citizens? What are the **prospects** and **pitfalls** of **direct democracy?** 



### **OUR CONTRIBUTION**

## DRCLAS TUESDAY SEMINAR





This seminar was the **last one** of the webinar series on the Chilean constitutional process. The second constitutional proposal was rejected by **55,8%** of the population on a plebiscite that took place on **December 17, 2023.** 





- The forum became an **analytical tool** to discuss in-depth the most pressing topics throughout the constitutional process.
- This space of global reflection aggregated thinkers from **different** political backgrounds and social perspectives.
- Thanks to the **Advisory Committee** in Chile, the selection of themes for each webinar conveyed the crucial moment that the constitutional process was going through.
- The initial debate between 2020 and 2022 focused on **social rights** and the future of Chile's **economic model** and how to restore legitimacy to a political system that lost public trust
- In addition, it also analyzed how to improve **democratic representation**, especially of women, indigenous communities, and other historically under-represented minorities.
- After the first proposal was rejected by the population in the 2022 plebiscite, in 2023 and 2024 we examined the **process** itself and why it failed twice.





Chile's constitutional process was **closely followed around the world**. We invited academics based abroad to get a general context as well as professors who teach at local universities to reach an audience as global as possible.

3,400+ total number of registrations to all webinars

2,200+ total number of attendees, showing a high level of participation (50%+) concerning the number of registered people.





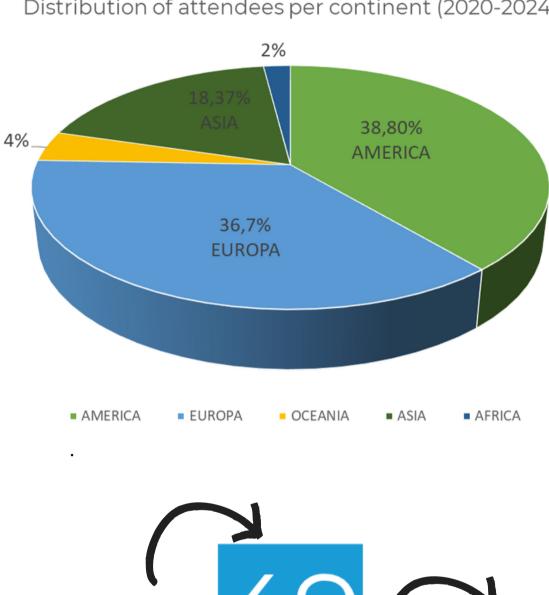
#### WORLDWIDE ATTENDEES

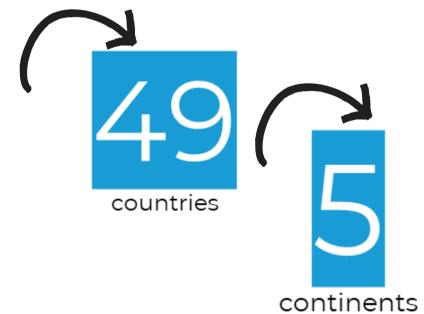
Distribution of attendees per continent (2020-2024)

Andorra Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Bhutan Bolivia Brazil Canada Chad Chile Colombia Costa Rica Czech Republic Cyprus Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Finland France Germany Honduras Hong Kong India

Indonesia Ireland Israel Italy Japan Korea Mexico Netherlands New Zealand Nicaragua Norway Oman Panama Paraguay Peru Portugal Singapore Slovenia Spain Switzerland Turkey United Kingdom United States Uruguay

Venezuela









## THE THREE TOPICS OF **HIGHEST** INTEREST WEBINARS (LIVE) (2020-2024)



#### HOW DOES THE PROPOSAL OF CHILE'S NEW CONSTITUTION LOOK?

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 9:30 am ET (9:30 Chile Time)

Steven Levitsky, Roberto Gargarella, David Landau, Miriam Henríquez, Alejandra Ovalle, Juan Pablo Luna.

VIEW EVENT

1

#### 368 attendees

Strengths and weaknesses of the legal framework

July 13, 2022



#### 241 attendees

The future of the Chilean Economic model

June 16, 2021



## THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE CHILEAN ECONOMY: A BREAK WITH THE PAST?

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 9:30 am ET / Chile

Steve Levitsky, Cristián Rodríguez-Chiffelle, Dani Rodrik, Claudia Sanhueza, Rodrigo Valdés, Rodrigo Vergara

VIEW EVENT



#### LAUNCH: ACADEMIC FORUM FOR THE NEW CONSTITUTION IN CHILE

Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 3:00 pm ET

Claudia Heiss, Steven Levitsky, Juan Pablo Luna, Sebastián Soto

VIEW EVENT

3

#### 231 attendees

Launch of the Academic Forum

December 2, 2020

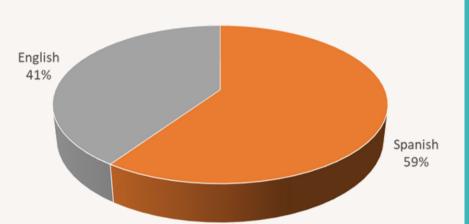




Language Preference

**YOUTUBE VIEWS (2020-2024)** 

Both the percentage of Englishspeaking attendees and the global
audience support the high
international interest in the
Chilean constitutional process.
We aggregated all webinars on
our webpage for an educational
and academic analysis purpose.



14 videos

8,235

total views 3,873

English version

4,362
Spanish version



Click here to watch all webinars:

https://drclas.harvard.edu/chile-en





THE MOST POPULAR WEBINAR OF BOTH LIVE SERIES AND THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL:
July 13, 2022

### How does the proposal of Chile's new Constitution look?

We contribute to the debate by presenting different perspectives from academic experts, both Chilean and international, on the strengths and weaknesses of the new legal framework represented in the draft of the new Constitution.

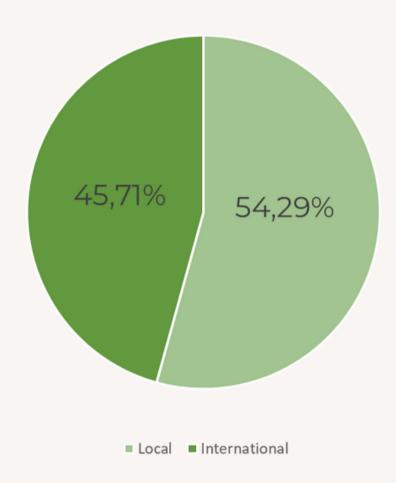
Steven Levitsky, Harvard University
Roberto Gargarella, Universidad de Buenos Aires
David Landau, Florida State University
Miriam Henríquez, Universidad Alberto Hurtado
Alejandra Ovalle, Universidad Católica de Chile
Juan Pablo Luna, Universidad Católica de Chile





#### SPEAKERS BY ORIGIN

Percentage of organizations represented (2020-2024)



Nearly **54%** of the speakers were coming from local universities, think tanks and institutions, while **46%** of the total had international affiliation.

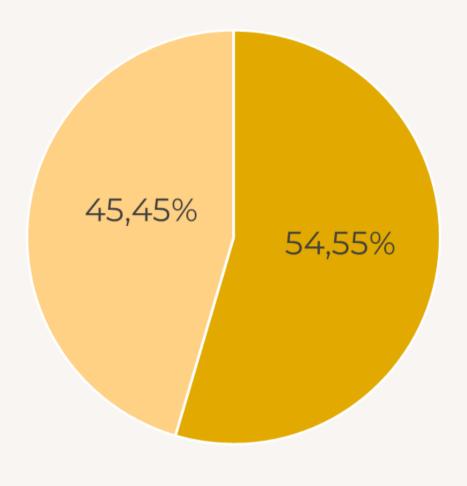
Six out of seven members of the Advisory Committee in Chile are former **DRCLAS Visiting Scholars** and all participated as panelists in each webinar.





#### SPEAKERS BY GENDER

Percentage of speakers by gender (2020-2024)



■ Male ■ Female

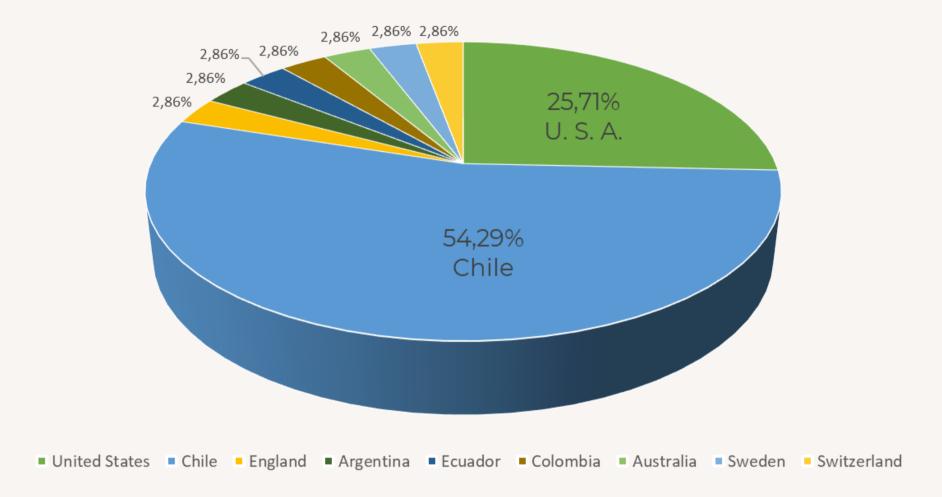
Around 45.4 % of the speakers were women and 54.5% were men.





#### SPEAKERS BY COUNTRY

Universities, think tank and other institutions per country (speakers' affiliation) 2020-2024

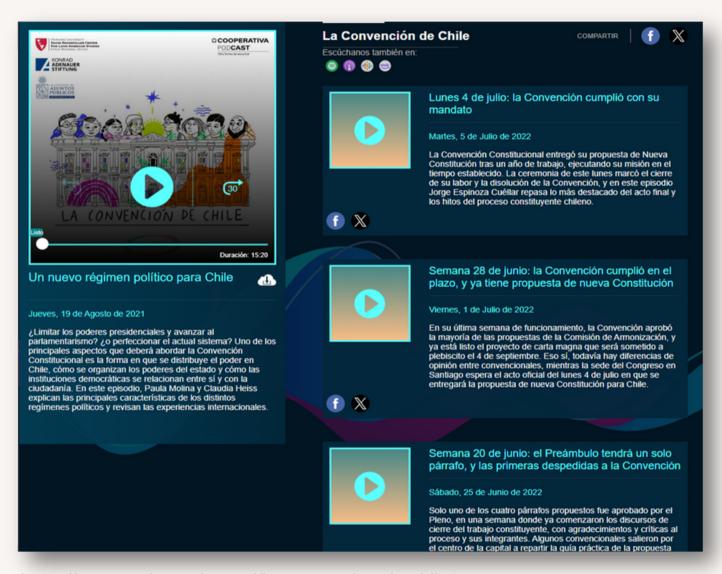


A total of **66** speakers affiliated to **35** prestigious universities, think tanks and institutions from **nine countries** participated in our webinar series to foster academic debate.





#### MEDIA PROJECT



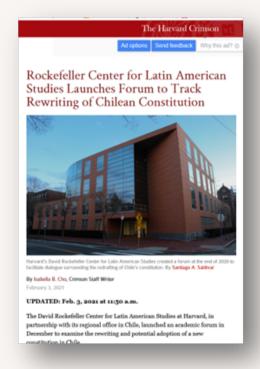
https://cooperativapodcast.cl/la-convencion-de-chile? ts=20220705123831&categoria=la-convenci%C3%B3n-de-chile

Our webinar series resulted in a one-year **Chile's Convention** project; a podcast run by Radio Cooperativa.



## A

#### MEDIA COVERAGE - UNIVERSITIES



#### The Harvard Crimson



Universidad Diego Portales Facultad de Ciencias e Historia



Universidad del Desarrollo Centro de Justicia Constitucional



Universidad Diego Portales Laboratorio Constitucional



Universidad Católica Instituto de Ciencia Política y Educación



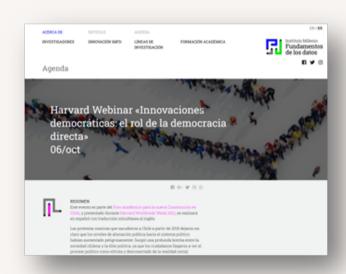
Universidad Austral de Chile Diario UACh



#### MEDIA COVERAGE - OTHER SOURCES



Diario Financiero



Instituto Milenio Fundamentos de los Datos



La Voz de Chile



Fundación Luksic Scholars



## CONCLUSIONS



- The Academic Forum for the new Constitution in Chile contributed with a high level of panelists to an enlightening academic debate on Chile's constitutional process (2020-2023).
- A total of 66 scholars, practitioners, and opinion leaders from 35 institutions in Chile and abroad participated as speakers, bringing together different points of view and political perspectives.
- This critical thinking promoted a **transversal dialogue** concerning the constitutional process in Chile about the most relevant topics in the nation-building project. The **Forum** held between December 2020 and February 2024 was followed in **49 countries**, reaffirming our commitment to reach the largest audience globally.
- We offer a platform with a hub of webinars, one forum, and a seminar for educational purposes and academic reviews. Our 14 videos in English and Spanish had 8,200+ views (March 2024).
- The webinars concerning the **first stage of the constitutional process** reached the largest number of attendees, the legal framework being the topic of highest interest in the series. This stage took place during the pandemic in 2021 and 2022.



# THANK YOU

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