

Regional Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean

Aimee Kanner Arias, Florida Atlantic University, FL, USA

Abstract: In this paper I examine regional social policy in the Southern Cone Common Market, the Caribbean Community, the Andean Community, and the Central American Integration System, all of the sub-regions in which the European Union has played a politically and economically supportive role in regional social integration. To what extent have these Latin American and Caribbean sub-regional organizations adopted policies to promote social redistribution and social rights? What have been the outcomes of the implementation of these policies? How has the European Union supported social integration in Latin American and the Caribbean? I review primary documents of the four sub-regional organizations, and European Union programs designed to support social integration in the Americas. I then analyze social indicators from the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank, and the International Labor Organization and argue that there has been a remarkable increase in the adoption of regional social policies, the outcomes of which are statistically significant in the areas of poverty, inequality, healthcare, and unemployment.

Keywords: Social Policy, Regional Integration, Latin America, Caribbean, European Union

Introduction

THE POOR IN Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), representing large sectors of the population in all countries of the region, have suffered through long periods of social exclusion and injustice since the period of colonization. Most LAC societies are plagued by inexorable social, economic, and political inequalities, with only a limited number of wealthy elite having access to the countries' resources and political system. High levels of poverty and unemployment and low levels of education make it impossible for the disadvantaged citizens to actively participate in an inclusive society, which is a detriment to its further development.

When these social problems are considered obstacles to achieving their objectives, LAC governments address them in various ways depending on the country and the period of political development. Thus, throughout the region there is a wide variety of national social programs, none of which have provided sufficient support to adequately address the persisting social issues. Internal and external pressures, however, are making social policy reform and development a national priority of many of the LAC countries. Its importance has carried over to the sub-regional level, where leaders have called for new policies and strategies to improve regional social cohesion.

Social justice is one of the goals that the European Union (EU) leaders have also worked toward achieving internally, and are promoting in their relations with third countries¹ and groups of countries, including Latin America and the Caribbean. Social cohesion became a

¹ All countries that are not member states or candidate states of the European Union are referred to as third countries.

priority of the bi-regional strategic partnership between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean in 2004. The same year, the EU established an assistance program, EUROsociAL, to exchange information and provide training and expertise to those responsible for the development and implementation of social policies in Latin America. EUROsociAL was supported with more than €30 million in funding from the European Commission, a testament to its political will to see the program through to a successful conclusion.

While several scholars have analyzed social policy in the context of national development, including LAC countries (e.g. Jonas and McCaughan 1994; Mkandawire 2004; Haggard and Kaufman 2008), literature on regional social policy (e.g. Deacon et al. 2010) is only in an incipient stage, and limited when dealing specifically with Latin America and the Caribbean (e.g. Birdsall and Székely 2003; Mesa-Lago 2004; Riesco 2010). Of these scholars, only Riesco addresses social policy from a sub-regional perspective. I seek to further this emergent academic discussion by focusing specifically on the Latin American and Caribbean sub-regions, and by providing an empirical analysis of social indicators, which suggests more generally positive outcomes.

In this paper, I question the extent to which the leaders of the LAC sub-regional organizations have followed through with their proposals and adopted policies to promote social redistribution and social rights. Has there been any real change in social outcomes after implementing these policies and after creating EUROsociAL? I argue that the LAC sub-regional leaders have prioritized regional social policy, often designing comprehensive strategies, providing funding, and establishing institutions to address social issues. Subsequently, and with the support of EUROsociAL, there has been significant improvement in average overall social outcomes in the region.

In examining the four LAC sub-regions: the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), and the Central American Integration System (SICA), I review primary documents (acts, treaties, and declarations) to evaluate the incorporation or reform of regional social policies. I also analyze empirical evidence based on social indicators (poverty, income distribution inequalities, unemployment, access to healthcare, and access to education) from the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank (supported with data from the International Labor Organization).

In what follows, I first review regional social policy development in the four LAC sub-regions. I then analyze EU-LAC relations in the context of social cohesion. In order to examine the potential impact of regional policies and supported programs on social outcomes, I test pre- and post- EUROsociAL data obtained from the ECLAC and the World Bank. I conclude with a synthesis and implications of the findings.

The Development of Regional Social Policy in the LAC Sub-regions

Though social policy tends to remain within the domestic domain in the LAC countries (just as in the EU), comprehensive social policies and strategies are being developed at the regional level as well. In all of the LAC sub-regions, social cohesion policies, funding for social policy development and implementation, and/or institutions to develop and administer social policies have been created (mostly over the past decade) to support regional social objectives. These comprehensive initiatives demonstrate a political will to confront the region's social challenges.

SICA

For more than three decades, cooperation and integration in Central America was largely based on trade and institutionalized through the Organization of Central American States. It was not until 1991 that the SICA was established with the signing of the Tegucigalpa Protocol. SICA was founded with the legal and political framework necessary to expand cooperation into additional issue areas, including social policy (SICA 2009a). The seven full member states of the SICA are Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

The Central American Social Integration Treaty (also known as the Treaty of San Salvador) was signed in 1995 by all member states of the SICA with the exception of Belize. It created the Social Subsystem “to promote the coordination, harmonization, and convergence of social policies” (SICA 2009b). Amongst the objectives included in the San Salvador Treaty are improving working and living conditions; improving access to basic services; reducing poverty; achieving social and economic justice; promoting socially sustainable development; and enhancing equal opportunities. The institutions responsible for social integration in the SICA are the Council of Social Integration, the Council of Social Ministers, and the Social Integration Secretariat. They are supported in their work by the following institutions: the Panamanian and Central American Nutrition Institute; the Central American Bank of Economic Integration; and the Central American Institute of Public Administration (SICA 2009c).

CARICOM

Cooperation amongst Caribbean countries has a long history, dating back to at least the period of colonization, when trade routes and companies were formed. Contemporary Caribbean integration has been active since the 1950s, dealing primarily with issues of trade. It was in 1973, however, that the roots of what we know today as the Caribbean Community began. It was first established as the Caribbean Community and Common Market through the Treaty of Chaguaramas (CARICOM Secretariat 2011a). CARICOM is composed of 15 member states: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago (CARICOM Secretariat 2011b).

In 2001, CARICOM experienced a significant transition with the signing of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. It extends CARICOM’s members’ cooperation into additional issue areas, including those related to socioeconomic conditions (CARICOM Secretariat 2011a).

The Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) was created through the 2001 Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and engages in activities to promote social equality and justice and improve standards of living throughout the region. The main areas of focus of the COHSOD are health, education, working conditions, and equal opportunities (CARICOM Secretariat 2009a). In 2004, the CARICOM ministers adopted a comprehensive program for human development (CARICOM Secretariat 2009b).

CAN

Integration in the Andean region was first established through the 1969 Cartagena Agreement which created the Andean Pact, the predecessor to today’s Andean Community of Nations.

During its first two decades, the CAN was almost entirely based on the goal of increasing trade among its member states. The current member states of the CAN are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. (Venezuela was a member until 2006, when it withdrew from the organization).²

Since the end of the 1990s, the decade in which the Andean Pact officially became the CAN, the member states have become increasingly more integrated in additional issue areas, including the area of social policy. The CAN's emphasis on social justice and equality has its roots in the 2001 Carabobo Act in which the Andean Presidential Council called for the formulation of an Integrated Plan of Social Development (IPSD) "to combat the grave problems of poverty, exclusion and social inequality in the sub-region" (Andean Community 2001). The greater impetus for an integration process grounded in social development came a few years later with declarations and decisions resulting in the adoption of the IPSD and the creation of the Andean Council of Social Development Ministers in 2004.

The IPSD has several objectives, the main one being to develop sub-regional programs and projects that complement and add value to each Andean country's national policies to combat inequality and poverty. The areas covered by the IPSD include employment, education and culture, healthcare, rural development, food security, the environment, and social development in the border regions. The development and execution of projects are the responsibility of the Andean Council of Social Development Ministers in conjunction with national committees formed for this specific purpose (Andean Community 2004).

MERCOSUR

With the signing of the Treaty of Asunción in 1991 by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, MERCOSUR was officially established. MERCOSUR'S original objective was to reduce barriers to trade amongst the member states as a means of promoting economic liberalization and growth in the region. Just as with the other LAC sub-regional organizations, integration in MERCOSUR has spilled over from primarily trade and economic issues into additional competences, including social cohesion, which has become a priority issue area for the Southern Cone region.

Ideas about promoting regional social development through MERCOSUR emerged at the end of the 20th Century and became a reality with the Meeting of MERCOSUR Social Development Ministers and Authorities in 2000, and the creation of Social MERCOSUR in 2001. Social issues have become so important to the integration process that a Permanent Secretariat for Social MERCOSUR was created in 2005, and in 2007 a Social Institute of MERCOSUR was established, with its headquarters in Asunción, Paraguay. Tangible results of these developments can be seen in the social projects, which are part of the Social Cohesion Program, and financially supported with MERCOSUR's Structural Convergence Fund (MERCOSUR 2008).

² Venezuela is not included in the data analysis section as the change in the outcome variables is calculated at least two years after the base year 2004, the same year (2006) that Venezuela withdrew from the CAN.

Intra-regional Relations and Social Cohesion

EU-LAC relations are carried out on three different levels: regional, sub-regional, and bilateral. The three pillars of these relations are economic cooperation, political dialogue, and trade. On the regional level, the EU has institutionalized relations with the Rio Group, which includes all of the Latin American countries, and is the basis of the bi-regional political dialogue between the EU and Latin America. Since 1999, Summits of the EU, Latin American, and Caribbean leaders have been convened every few years (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1999; Madrid, Spain, 2002; Guadalajara, Mexico, 2004; Vienna, Austria, 2006; Lima, Peru, 2008; and Madrid, Spain 2010) to strengthen and provide direction to the bi-regional relations. The EU supports sub-regional integration in Latin America through economic cooperation and dialogue with the SICA, CARICOM, MERCOSUR, and the CAN. In addition to these regional and sub-regional frameworks the EU maintains bilateral relations with each of the individual Latin American countries.

With regard to social policy, specifically, there has been a real convergence and cooperation between the EU and LAC countries. This convergence of perspectives on social cohesion was facilitated, in part, when most Latin American countries began to shift away from strict neo-liberal economic policy implementation³ around the turn of the 21st century.⁴ Furthermore, social cohesion is a competence shared between the states and the regions both in the EU and the LAC sub-regions, creating similar challenges and opportunities, and the increased potential for developing comparable strategies between them.

The significant parallels between the two regions led them to adopt social cohesion as a shared goal and priority of the EU-LAC bi-regional strategic partnership at the 2004 EU-LAC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Guadalajara, Mexico. The practical outcome of this shared goal was the creation of a technical cooperation program, fittingly called EUROsociAL, which the European Commission funded with more than €30 million over the next five years. EUROsociAL was designed to provide training to Latin American administrations and to encourage the exchange of information, promote dialogue, and share successful experiences amongst Latin American governments and between those of the EU, particularly in what were determined to be the key areas that could help contribute to enhancing social cohesion: justice, education, employment, taxation, and health (Commission of the European Communities 2008). At the end of October 2009, there had been 387 activities, involving 1,887 institutions and 10,707 persons, carried out by the EUROsociAL program (Commission of the European Communities 2009).⁵

Mindful of the progress made in the LAC region resulting, in part, from the support afforded by EUROsociAL, the European Commission approved a subsequent program, EUROsociAL II, in 2010. The EU will provide €40 million in funding for the activities, similar to those of its first incarnation, of EUROsociAL II (Commission of the European Communities 2010).

³ The implementation of neo-liberal economic policies fulfilled some of the conditions of the structural adjustment programs, offered to most Latin American countries by international financial institutions to help recover from the severe economic crises they experienced during the 1980s.

⁴ According to Manuel Riesco, Latin America may be on the verge of launching a new developmental welfare state model. He argues that “an unambiguous shift of direction away from neo-liberalism... has been taking place in [Latin America] since the 1997 economic crisis” (2010: 113).

⁵ The main participants were medium and high level officials who were primarily engaged in information exchanges (Commission of the European Communities 2009).

Another indication of the EU's dedication to improving social standards with the developing countries and regions with which it maintains permanent relations, including the LAC region, is the inclusion of this priority within the External Action Chapter of the Treaty of Lisbon. Therein, the EU will "foster the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty" (Art. 10A.2d). The EU, through the Treaty of Lisbon, institutionalized the joint objectives established at the Summit of Guadalajara in 2004.

LAC Regional Social Policy Development and Support: Assessing the Outcome

To assess the change in social conditions in the LAC sub-regions, I relied on social indicator data from the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) and the ECLAC.⁶ The sample includes all of the member states (for which data are available) in the four sub-regions of LAC: SICA, CARICOM, CAN, and MERCOSUR. The analysis, therefore, is based on 29 member states⁷ in four sub-regional organizations.

Outcome Variables: One of the main objectives of this study is to determine to what extent the development of sub-regional social policies, and support from EUROsociAL has affected change in the social conditions within the LAC countries. To assess the impact of these policies and programs in the social sphere, I looked at five social indicators two years prior to 2004, and for the most recent year available (but not less than two years following 2004). In 2004, EUROsociAL was created; social cohesion became a priority for the EU-LAC bi-regional strategic partnership; the IPSD was adopted in the CAN; and the CARICOM ministers adopted a comprehensive program for human development.⁸

The five social indicators are poverty, income distribution inequality, unemployment, access to healthcare, and access to education. The poverty data are from the ECLAC and poverty is measured by the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line in each of the 29 countries. The data for the remaining indicators are all from the WDI: income distribution inequality is measured by the Gini coefficient; unemployment is measured by total unemployment (% of labor force); access to healthcare is measured by life expectancy at birth (in years); and access to education is measured by the adult literacy rate (% of people ages 15 and above).

A simple look at the change in the Gini coefficient for the four full member states of MERCOSUR, for example, indicates that there has been an overall improvement in income distribution inequalities in the sub-region. While Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay have all decreased their Gini coefficients (demonstrating a positive change), Uruguay's coefficient increased but remains the lowest in MERCOSUR. Some member states, therefore, outperform

⁶ The WDI includes more than 900 indicators, including those used to measure socio-economic conditions, providing a comprehensive overview of development around the world (World Bank Group 2010). The ECLAC statistical office collects and systematizes economic, social, and environmental data for the LAC countries, including those used to measure employment, health, education, and poverty (United Nations 2010).

⁷ Interestingly, Belize is a member state of both CARICOM and SICA. Based on its geographic location, it is coded as a member state of SICA for the purposes of this project.

⁸ Just one year later, in 2005, a Permanent Secretariat for Social MERCOSUR was created, and is thus within the parameters of the assessment. SICA, on the other hand, does not have any major initiatives around this time period, and thus its assessment is largely based on the funding received as part of EUROsociAL.

others in the same sub-regional organizations, and some sub-regional organizations are making more progress toward achieving the established goals than others. There is an important variation between member states and sub-regional organizations, yet a preliminary analysis of the data shows an improvement in the five social indicators in almost all of the countries for which data are available.

Table 1: Pre-and Post-EUROsocial Social Indicators for SICA, CARICOM, CAN and MERCOSUR

Country	edu01	edu08	Gini02	Gini07	health02	health08	unempl02	unempl08	poverty02	Poverty08
Argentina	97	98	52.5	48.8	74	75	19.6	7.3		
Brazil	86	90	58.2	55	71	72	9.1	7.9	37.5	25.8
Paraguay		95	58	53.2	71	72	10.7	5.7	61	58.2
Uruguay		98	44.8	47.1	75	76	17	7.6		13.7
Bolivia	87	91	60.2	57.2	64	66	7.5	6.7	62.4	54
Colombia		93	58.8	58.5	72	73	15.7	11.7	51.1	46.8
Ecuador	91	84	61.8	54.4	74	75	9.3	6.9		42.7
Peru		90	54.7	50.5	71	73	7.7	7	54.8	36.2
Antigua & Barbuda	99	99			75		8.4			
Bahamas					71	73	9	7.9		
Barbados					76	77	10.3			
Grenada					74	75				
Guyana					64	67	11.8			
Haiti			59.5		60	61				
Jamaica		86	48.3		71	72	14.3	10.6		
St. Vincent & the Grenadines					71	72				
Suriname		91			68	69				
Trinidad & Tobago		99			68	69	10.4	6.5		
Belize					75	76	10	8.2		
Costa Rica	95	96	49.8	48.9	78	79	6.4	4.6	20.3	16.4
El Salvador		84	52.3	46.9	70	71	6.2	6.6	48.9	
Guatemala	69	74	55.3	53.7	69	70	3.1	1.8	77.3	68.9
Honduras	80	84	53.9	55.3	71	72	3.9	3.1	77.3	68.9
Nicaragua	77		50.3		71	73	12.2	5.2	69.3	61.9
Panama	92	94	56.5	54.9	75	76	14.1	6.8	34	27.7

Data Source: World Bank Group 2010 and United Nations 2010

Note: edu01 and edu08 refer to adult literacy rate (% of people ages 15 and above) in 2001 and 2008, respectively. Gini02 and Gini07 refer to the Gini coefficients in 2002 and 2007, respectively. health02 and health08 refer to life expectancy at birth (in years) in 2002 and 2008, respectively. unempl02 and unempl08 refer to total unemployment (% of labor force) in 2002 and 2008, respectively. poverty02 and poverty08 refer to the percentage of population living below the national poverty lines in 2002 and 2008, respectively.

The outcome variables are measured based on the change in the values for the five social indicators from two years prior to the start of the EUROsociAL program to the most recent year available.⁹ Analyzing the data using the difference between the means (t-test) shows the LAC countries have made significant improvements in overall general social welfare. These results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: T-test Results for Pre-and Post-EUROsociAL Social Indicators

Social Indicator	Pre-EUROsociAL Mean	Post-EUROsociAL Mean	t	Pr(T>t)
Education	88.44	90	1.2807	0.1181
Inequality	55.14	52.65	3.2804	0.0033
Health	71	72.25	11.5192	<0.0001
Unemployment	10.34	6.78	4.3821	0.0002
Poverty	52.79	45.07	5.2700	0.0003

There has been a significant change in social conditions in the sub-regions of the LAC since the launch of EUROsociAL and the adoption of sub-regional social initiatives in, or around, 2004. Consensus and cooperation between the EU and LAC sub-regions on the issue of social cohesion has, thus, shown to be a positive element in the pursuit of social justice and equality in the LAC region.

Conclusion

While recently there has been increased interest in research related to regional social policy, it remains considerably underdeveloped. This paper contributes to the literature by systematically reviewing social policy developments in the four LAC sub-regions and taking into account the financial support from the EU. Further, it includes an empirical analysis of data related to the social ills the policies seek to reform. In other words, this research project examines both the policy and practical outcomes of an increased regional political will to address the problems of social inequalities and injustices in the LAC countries.

⁹ For most of the cases, the data are for the years 2002 and 2008. With regard to access to education, most cases had data available for 2001, which was used as the pre-EUROsociAL base year. With regard to income distribution inequality, most cases had data available for 2007, which was used as the post-EUROsociAL base year [See Table 1]. In all cases for which the data was not available for the pre- or post-EUROsociAL base years, I used the values for the closest years available.

The findings of this paper indicate there has been a significant improvement in the five selected social indicators from the pre- to the post-EUROsociAL period. Nevertheless, there are additional factors, such as state characteristics; periods of unexpected economic growth or loss; and institutional development and strength that will also affect the outcomes of social improvements in the LAC countries. Furthermore, despite the social improvements, which should not be taken lightly, the social indicators do not account for the quality of the services or improvements in these social areas. For example, while there may be increased access to healthcare and education, the quality of these services is also an important aspect of social justice and equality that is not captured by the data. I hope that some of these factors will be addressed in further research on this issue.

References

- Andean Community (2001) 'XIII Consejo Presidencial Andino, Acta de Carabobo'. Available online at: <http://www.comunidadandina.org/documentos/actas/valencia.htm> (accessed 9 October 2010).
- Andean Community (2004) 'Plan Integrado de Desarrollo Social'. Available online at: http://www.comunidadandina.org/agenda_social/plan.htm (accessed 9 October 2010).
- Birdsall, Nancy and Miguel Székely (2003) 'Bootstraps, not Band-Aids: Poverty, Equity, and Social Policy,' in P-P. Kuczynski and J. Williamson (eds.) *After the Washington Consensus: Restarting Growth and Reform in Latin America*. Washington, DC: Institute for International Economics.
- CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Secretariat (2009a) 'The Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)'. Available online at: http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/cohsod.jsp (accessed 29 November 2010).
- CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Secretariat (2009b) 'Meetings of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)'. Available online at: http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/cohsod_meetings.jsp (accessed 29 November 2010).
- CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Secretariat (2011a) 'The Caribbean Community'. Available online at: http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community/community_index.jsp?menu=community (accessed 8 June 2011).
- CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Secretariat (2011b) 'CARICOM Member States'. Available online at: http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community/member_states.jsp?menu=community (accessed 8 June 2011).
- Commission of the European Communities (2008) 'Social Cohesion'. Available online at: http://eeas.europa.eu/la/social_cohesion_en.htm (accessed 15 November 2010).
- Commission of the European Communities (2009) 'Action Fiche for Regional Latin America (Annex 1)'. Available online at: http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/aap/2010/af_aap_2010_amlat.pdf (accessed 27 November 2010).
- Commission of the European Communities (2010) 'Commission Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2010 in Favour of the Latin American Region to be Financed Under Article 19 09 01 of the General Budget of the European Union'. Available online at: http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documnts/aap/2010/aap_2010_amlat_en.pdf (accessed 27 November 2010).
- Deacon, B., M.C. Macovei, L. Van Langenhove and N. Yeates (eds.). (2010) *World-Regional Social Policy and Global Governance*. New York: Routledge.
- European Union (2007) *Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community*, 13 December 2007, 2007/C 306/01.
- Haggard, S. and R. R. Kaufman (2008) *Development, Democracy and Welfare States: Latin America, East Asia, and Eastern Europe*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Jonas, S. and E. J. McCaughan (eds.). (1994) *Latin America Faces the Twenty-First Century: Reconstructing a Social Justice Agenda*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- MERCOSUR (2008). 'MERCOSUR Social'. Available online at: <http://www.mercosur-social.org/primera.html> (accessed 16 November 2010).
- Mesa-Lago, C. (2004) 'Models of Development, Social Policy and Reform in Latin America', in T. Mkandawire (ed.) *Social Policy in a Development Context*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan/United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
- Mkandawire, T. (ed.). (2004) *Social Policy in a Development Context*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan/United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
- Riesco, M. (2010) 'Social Policies and Rights in the European Union and the Council of Europe: Exhortation, Regulation and Enforcement', in B. Deacon, M.C. Macovei, L. Van Langenhove

- and N. Yeates (eds.) *World-Regional Social Policy and Global Governance*. New York: Routledge.
- SICA (Central American Integration System) (2009a) 'Historical Overview of SICA'. Available online at http://www.sica.int/sica/resena_sica_en.aspx?IDEnt=401&IdmStyle=2&Idm=2 (accessed 29 November 2010).
- SICA (Central American Integration System) (2009b) 'Juridical Framework of SICA'. Available online at http://www.sica.int/sica/marco_j_en.aspx?IDEnt=401&IdmStyle=2&Idm=2 (accessed 29 November 2010).
- SICA (Central American Integration System) (2009c) 'Tratado de la Integración Social Centroamericana'. Available online at: http://www.sica.int/busqueda/busqueda_archivo.aspx?Archivo=trat_963_6_27092005.pdf (accessed 29 November 2010).
- United Nations (2010) 'CEPALSTAT: Data Bases and Statistical Publications'. Available online at: <http://websie.eclac.cl/infest/ajax/cepalstat.asp?carpeta=estadisticas&idioma=i> (accessed 28 November 2010).
- World Bank Group (2010) 'World Development Indicators (WDI) 2010'. Available online at: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators/wdi-2010> (accessed 28 November 2010).

About the Author

Dr. Aimee Kanner Arias

Aimee Kanner Arias is an assistant professor of political science at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). She is the associate director of FAU's Diplomacy Program, working primarily in development and as a faculty advisor for international competitions. From 2001 to 2005, she was the associate director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, where she worked as a research associate, organized conferences, and edited publications. Dr. Arias' research interests include the politics of Latin America, Europe, and the European Union; and regional integration. She has published multiple works related to these interests.

Copyright of International Journal of the Humanities is the property of Common Ground Publishing and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.