



*Torcuato Di Tella*

Professor

Author

Industrialist, and founder of  
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

## Torcuato Di Tella

### POLITICAL PROSPECTS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE COMPARED

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**February 22, 2010 12:00 - 1:30pm**

**Orfalea Center Seminar Room, 1005 Robertson Gym  
(office wing at Ocean Road gym entrance, left side)**

Chile and Argentina are very similar countries in Latin America. Why are their political systems so different? Massive European immigration in Argentina, far from creating “European” political conditions, departed from them, because the vast majority of the urban bourgeoisie and the working class did not take up citizenship and were thus at a disadvantage for the creation of liberal or labor parties. Consequences for the party system will be analyzed, in particular the likelihood of a bipolar left-right system evolving also in Argentina.

Torcuato Di Tella, born in Buenos Aires, in 1929, specializes on the comparative study of Latin American political systems. He has been a professor at the University of Chile (1957-1958) and at the University of Buenos Aires, from 1958 till his retirement in 2005. He was visiting professor at the universities of California (Berkeley), London, Oxford, Columbia, Stanford and Kobe. He is the author of several books translated into English, *Latin American Politics* (Austin, 1990, revised 2001), *National Popular Politics in Early Independent Mexico* (Albuquerque, 1996) and *History of Political Parties in Latin America* (New Brunswick, 2004). His more recent books are *Perón y los sindicatos: el inicio de una relación conflictiva* (Buenos Aires, 2003), and, as editor, *Repertorio político latinoamericano* (4 vols, Buenos Aires, 2007).

Together with his brother Guido he was a founder, in 1958, of the Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, which later became a university (1990). He was named Emeritus Professor at the University of Buenos Aires in 2003, and was national Secretary of Culture between May 2003 and November 2004.