

Center for International Studies – Albuquerque International Association

present

Foreign Loyalties? Hispanics and American National Unity

David R. Ayón

Friday, 9 January 2009, 4:00 pm

National Hispanic Cultural Center

4th Street SW and Avenida César Chávez (Bridge Blvd.)

Concerns over the assimilation and loyalty of ethnic groups and immigrants have been expressed since the 19th century, and at times these concerns have moved public opinion and federal policy. In his recent book *Who Are We? The Challenges to American National Identity*, famous Harvard professor Samuel Huntington argued that Hispanics threaten to divide American society today like no other group in U.S. history, and that they and other groups have foreign attachments that run counter to the national interest. This lecture will examine such “transnational” ties as well as recent efforts by Mexico, Canada, Israel, Spain and Venezuela to gain influence among Hispanic Americans.

David R. Ayón is a political analyst, writer and lecturer specializing in U.S.-Latin American relations and the politics and foreign policy of the United States and Mexico.



Ayón has worked as analyst, consultant, and special producer for Spanish language television news during each electoral cycle in the U.S. and in Mexico since 1992. He is a contributing editor to the Spanish-language edition of the journal *Foreign Affairs*; a contributor to *México en el Mundo*, an annual review of Mexico’s foreign relations; and has contributed numerous essays to the op-ed and Sunday Opinion pages of the *Los Angeles Times* since 1983, when he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies of UC San Diego. Educated at Princeton, Stanford and the Colegio de Mexico, Ayón has taught courses on politics and U.S.-Latin American relations at six colleges and universities, including two campuses of the University of California, Stanford and USC, and was Associate Director of the California-Mexico Project of the USC School of International Relations. Currently he is Senior Research Associate and U.S. Director of the ‘Focus Mexico’ project at the Leavy Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

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