

## ***Brazil: the “Good BRIC”?***

*Dr. Kathryn Hochstetler*

**January 22, 2010 3:00pm-5:00pm**  
**Albuquerque Museum, Auditorium**

In a 2001 global economic analysis, Jim O’Neill of Goldman Sachs singled out a special group of four developing countries, **Brazil, Russia, India, and China** (BRIC). He argued that the sheer scale of the “BRICs” – in population, land, and resources – was enough to make them the new **power brokers and economic growth engines** of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This talk will introduce the BRICs, showing that **O’Neill was right**. Each of the four is a regional economic and political powerhouse already, and has shown at least some ability to **reframe international relations** more widely.

The talk will pay special attention to **Brazil**, sometimes called the “**good BRIC**”. Its 25 years of steady democracy and willingness to endorse global norms and initiatives make it the most cooperative of the BRICs. After several **decades of economic under-performance**, Brazil boomed after 2000, riding high commodities prices and important energy developments. Brazil even managed to reduce some long-standing problems, such as its stark economic inequality and deforestation rates. Brazil drew on these achievements to become **more ambitious in its international agenda**. For example, Brazil led in shutting down the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, but was an important supporter of the Doha trade negotiations. What **principles and interests** drive Brazil’s rather unpredictable participation in global economic relations? To what extent do they **align with those of the United States?**

**Dr. Kathryn Hochstetler** is CIGI Chair of Governance in the Americas in the Balsillie School of International Affairs, in Canada. She has co-authored a **prize-winning book** on Brazilian environmental politics, *Greening Brazil*, and written a number of articles on topics like the Mercosur free trade area and Brazilian civil society. She has spent several years living and researching in Brazil and its South American neighbors. She has also traveled in the other BRIC countries and is beginning new research on development strategies within the BRICs.

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