

*Center for International Studies – Albuquerque International Association present*

# ***Venezuela***

## ***Hugo Chávez: The Cold War's Revolutionary Son***

***by Brian Nelson***  
***Johns Hopkins University***

**Friday, September 17, 2010 3:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**UNM Continuing Education Conference Center**  
1634 University Blvd NE (at the intersection with Indian School Rd.) Plenty of Free Parking

**Author Brian Nelson** will examine the psychology and the political motivations of Latin America's most truculent of presidents. What are the goals of the man who has befriended Fidel Castro, given aid to the Colombian FARC, called George W. Bush "the devil," and has made Venezuela one of the world's top arms buyers? Nelson unravels the riddle of Hugo Chávez by showing his deep personal identification with the revolutionary left. Indeed, Chávez's ascension to the Venezuelan presidency involves a series of relationships with "revolutionary fathers" many of them the same communist guerrillas who helped Fidel Castro in his failed decade-long struggle for control of Venezuela in the 1960s. Using this historic context, Nelson will examine the long-term implications for Venezuela—its strategic importance as a major oil exporter, the consequences of its budding relationship with Tehran, and what type of policy Washington should adopt to safeguard its interests in the region.

Brian Nelson is a former Fulbright grantee to Venezuela and the author of *The Silence and the Scorpion: The Coup Against Chávez and the Making of Modern Venezuela*, which was named one of the Best Books of 2009 by *The Economist*. His work on Venezuela has appeared in *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *The Southern Humanities Review* and was the subject of a PEW Case Study for Georgetown University. Mr. Nelson lives in Baltimore and teaches at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth.

***Cost/lecture: \$15 – Members, \$20 – Non-Members***

***Students with a proper ID – free of charge.***

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***Please mail checks by September 13, 2010***

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