

LACSI BROWN BAG SERIES

# Generosity and the Public Effect: Performances of State Transparency in Contemporary Mexico

As calls for accountability and open governance become ubiquitous, state actors are increasingly tasked with making policy data and knowledge of state affairs public. In this talk, I examine how Mexican state experts make policy performance data public through various 'acts of generosity'. I suggest that by packaging and promoting state-generated data in ways that appeal to various publics and by training journalists and civil society organizations to use and interpret this data, experts can overcome deeply rooted mistrust of the state and successfully perform transparency. At the same time, these 'acts of generosity' can limit the power of ordinary Mexican citizens to hold public officials accountable. I draw on ethnographic observation, in-depth interviews, and media analysis conducted between 2013-2016.



Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies Institute  
*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Park Hall,  
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Diana Graizbord received her PhD in Sociology from Brown University where she was an NSF-IGERT Fellow in Development and Inequality in the Global South. Her research examines knowledge in politics, democracy and development, and social policy. Diana is currently working on her first book, *Indications of Democracy: Evaluation Expertise and the Politics of Accountability*, which examines the role of monitoring and evaluation expertise in the production of democratic accountability in contemporary Mexico.