

Biographical Statement for Max Cameron

Max Cameron is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1989. Before joining the University of British Columbia in 1999, he taught at Carleton University in Ottawa. Between 2013 and 2021 he served as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions and, in that capacity, established the Institute for Future Legislators, a program to prepare citizens for service in elective office.

Cameron has been a member of LASA since 1989. He has served on the Commission on Academic Freedom and Human Rights, and has chaired the O'Donnell Prize and Lectureship Committee. He has also served on the executive of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies Association where he helped establish a prize for the best dissertation on a Latin American subject in a Canadian university. In 2020, he was named Distinguished Fellow by the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. In 2022 he was the recipient of the LASA Guillermo O'Donnell Award and Lectureship.

Cameron's research brings together interdisciplinary networks of scholars from across the Americas with a focus on problems of democracy. In the 1990s he worked in collaboration with other scholars to document the breakdown of democracy under Fujimori (published in *The Peruvian Labyrinth*, 1997). Following the collapse of the Fujimori regime, he worked with the Canadian Foundation for Latin America (FOCAL) in Ottawa and the Carter Centre in Atlanta to encourage the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and he has since advocated for the involvement of academics in the proactive use of the Charter in support of democracy, most recently in a presentation before the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS).

In 2009, as part of the effort to create a space for dialogue and exchange of ideas on democracy in the Andean region, Cameron helped establish the "Andean Democracy Research Network" (ADRN). Over 20 scholars in six countries worked in teams for over a year to produce an open-access book, *Democracia en la Region Andina: Diversidad y Desafios* (2010). Major funding for this project was received from the Department of Foreign Affairs (Government of Canada), UBC's Martha Piper Fund, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Ford Foundation. Another collaborative project emerged from the ADRN when its members noticed the spread of participatory innovations, and this culminated in the publication of *New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America* (Palgrave 2012). A related project focused on *Latin America's Left Turns* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Most recently, Cameron convened a team of scholars to re-assess the state of democracy in the Andes a decade after the ADRN's initial assessment, resulting in *Challenges to Democracy in the Andes: Strongmen, Broken Constitutions, and Regimes in Crisis* (Lynne Rienner 2022). Funding was provided by a UBC Research Excellence Cluster Grant and SSHRC. In 2023, Cameron was commissioned by International IDEA to prepare a report on the state of democracy in the Andes which will appear in 2024.

Cameron has held prestigious visiting professorships and research fellowships at Yale University, the Colegio de Mexico, the Universidad del Pacífico and GRADE (Peru), the Centre for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California San Diego, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at UBC. He has served as president of the Vancouver Institute, and is an active member of the Canadian International Council. He serves on the editorial board of *Latin American Politics and Society*, the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, and several other journals.

In recognition of his contributions to graduate and undergraduate teaching Cameron is the recipient of a Killam Teaching Award. In addition to mentoring many Master's students, he has supervised a dozen doctoral students and 5 postdoctoral fellows. His pedagogical approach, influenced by Paulo Freire, Ivan Illich, and John Dewey, emphasizes practical and experiential learning involving simulations, role-playing, and the case method.

Throughout his career, Cameron has combined research and advocacy. He has provided advice to local, provincial, federal, and international policymakers on topics such as electoral reform, citizen engagement, proportional representation, and participatory innovations. He served as a political advisor to the Electoral Observation Mission of the OAS during the 2006 election in Peru. He is a frequent commentator on politics in the media and has written for the *Guardian*, the *Monkey Cage*, *The Conversation*, *The Latin America Advisor*, *Financial Times*, *Maclean's*, *The Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, the *Ottawa Citizen*, the *Vancouver Sun*, *El Comercio* and *La República* (both in Peru) among others.