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Social Movements, Protest, and Human Rights: Latin America and Beyond (abstract)

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The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy

2015 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Oct. 1-3, 2015, Dayton, Ohio

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Research Panel: Case Studies in Human Rights Activism

Presenter: James C. Franklin, Ohio Wesleyan University

Title: Social Movements, Protest, and Human Rights: Latin America and Beyond

Abstract: The basis of this paper is research I have conducted into protests in Latin America. By recording the demands and actors involved in protests, I have been able to assess human rights-related protests. This, in turn, allows a systematic investigation of the relationship between social movements and human rights. One principal finding is that there are two different types of human rights contention. Argentina and Guatemala experienced national human rights movements, led by human rights organizations and focused on general human rights problems and solutions.

The other countries I studied in the region (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela) experienced a different pattern that I call ancillary human rights protest. Here, human rights protests are led by a variety of organizations, focus on repression particular to the groups involved, and are either short-lived or part of a more general wave of opposition. This paper will build on these findings, considering the outcomes of human rights protests and movements, the role of transnational networks, and the complex relationships between social movements and human rights in Latin America and beyond.

Keywords: human rights, social movements, protests, Latin America

Biography: Dr. James Franklin is a Professor of Politics and Government at Ohio Wesleyan University. He teaches a wide variety of courses, including Latin American Politics, Human Rights in International Perspective, Democratization, and Protest and Political Violence. His primary research interests are human rights, political repression, political protest, and democratization. He has published articles in a variety of social science journals, including *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *Political Research Quarterly*, where one of his articles was named the best paper of the year in 2009. Publications on human rights include "Shame on You: The Impact of Human Rights Criticism on Political Repression in Latin America" (2008), published in *International Studies Quarterly*; "Human Rights Contention in Latin America: A Comparative Study" (2013), published in *Human Rights Review*; and "Human Rights Naming and Shaming: International and Domestic Processes" (2015), published in *The Politics of Leverage in International Relations: Name, Shame and Sanction*.