Two prominent international political scientists, one from Mexico and one from Canada, will discuss how the race between Senators McCain and Obama is viewed from their respective countries and the concerns Mexicans and Canadians have about the presidential election and its outcome.

GUSTAVO VEGA-CANOVAS

Gustavo Vega-Canovas is a widely published scholar in the areas of international political economy and international trade regulation, focusing on U.S.-Mexico relations. He has been a visiting professor in the United States at Yale, Brown and Duke, as well as the Universities of North Carolina and Washington. He received his LLM from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University.

GILBERT R. WINHAM

Gilbert R. Winham has been on the faculty at Dalhousie University since 1975. He has served on a wide range of Canadian and international advisory bodies on international trade relations and published widely on NAFTA and WTO issues. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has been a visiting fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and the Brookings Institution. Winham received his AB from Bowdoin College, his diploma in international law from the University of Manchester, England, and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in political science.

DANIEL J. ROHLF

Daniel J. Rohlf is an associate professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. He also serves as director of the law school’s environmental law clinic, the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (PEAC). Rohlf’s courses include Wildlife Law; Law, Science and the Environment Seminar; Civil Procedure, an Endangered Species Act summer seminar; and Legal Ecology, an interdisciplinary field-based summer course. His scholarship emphasizes protection and management of biodiversity and the interconnections between law and science. Rohlf has published widely on biodiversity management and conservation, including a book on the Endangered Species Act (The Endangered Species Act: A Guide to Its Protections and Implementation). His work with PEAC emphasizes litigation under the federal Endangered Species Act, including cases involving conservation of grizzly bears and Pacific salmon. Rohlf received his undergraduate degree in geology from Colorado College and his JD from Stanford Law School.

PAMELA S. KARLAN

A productive scholar and award-winning teacher, Pamela S. Karlan is also the founding director of Stanford Law School’s extraordinarily successful Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, where students litigate live cases before the Court. One of the nation’s leading experts on voting and the political process, she has served as a commissioner on the California Fair Political Practices Commission and an assistant counsel and cooperating attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She is the co-author of three leading casebooks on constitutional law and related subjects, as well as more than four dozen scholarly articles. She is a widely recognized commentator on legal issues and is frequently featured on programs such as “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.” Before joining the Stanford Law School faculty in 1998, she was a professor of law at the University of Virginia School of Law and served as a law clerk to Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the Supreme Court of the United States and Judge Abraham D. Sofaer of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Karlan received her BA degree from Yale University in 1980. In 1984, she received her M.A. from Yale University, University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a JD from Yale Law School.

HEATHER K. GERKEN

Heather K. Gerken is a professor of law at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. She has published numerous articles on election law and constitutional theory in Harvard Law Review, Stanford Law Review, The Yale Law Journal, Columbia Law Review, Roll Call, Legal Affairs, Legal Times, The New Republic and elsewhere. She has served as a commentator on election controversies for a number of media outlets, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, NPR, “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer,” CNN, MSNBC and NBC News. Gerken’s research centers on questions of applied democratic theory, including the role groups play in a democratic system, the translation of institutional design choices into manageable legal doctrine and the values associated with minority-dominated institutions. Her most recent scholarship explores questions of election reform, diversity and dissent. Gerken’s proposal that Congress establish a Democracy Index—a national ranking system of state election performance has been incorporated into separate bills by Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and has been the subject of a conference sponsored by the Pew Foundation, the Joyce Foundation and AEI-Brookings. The proposal is the subject of her forthcoming book, The Democracy Index: Getting From Here to There in Election Reform, which will be published by Princeton University Press in spring 2009.