

Texas A&M International University  
A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business  
Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade



## INTERNATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE 2017-2018 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

# “Better Neighbors: Toward a Renewal of Economic Integration in Latin America”



PRESENTED BY:

**Raymond Robertson, Ph.D.**

Professor and the Helen and Roy Ryu  
Chair in Economics and Government  
Texas A&M University

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (SC 203)

**Reception 7 p.m. | Lecture 7:30 p.m.**

Open to the public. Free of charge.



For additional information,  
call 956.326.2820, e-mail [cswh@tamiu.edu](mailto:cswh@tamiu.edu),  
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### **Raymond Robertson, Ph.D.**

Professor and the Helen and Roy Ryu  
Chair in Economics and Government  
Texas A&M University

Dr. Raymond Robertson is a professor and holder of the Helen and Roy Ryu Chair in Economics and Government in the Department of International Affairs at The Bush School of Government and Public Service. Dr. Robertson is a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany.

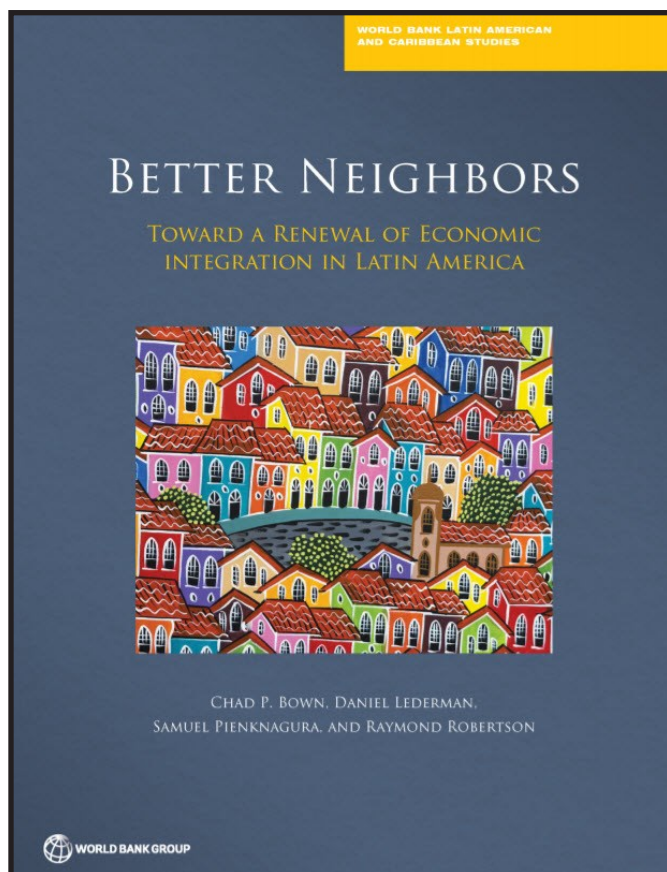
Robertson earned a B.A. in political science and economics from Trinity University in San Antonio, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from The University of Texas at Austin. He has taught at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, and was a visiting professor in the Department of Economics at the Graduate School of Administration, Monterrey Institute of Technology's Mexico City campus.

Widely published in the field of labor economics and international economics, Robertson previously chaired the U.S. Department of Labor's National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of the U.S. Free Trade Agreements, served on the State Department's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy, and is a member of the Center for Global Development's advisory board.





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*Better Neighbors* proposes a renewal of 'Open Regionalism' in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) aimed at achieving the region's goals of high growth with stability. The LAC region experienced a growth spurt with equity during the first decade of the 21st Century. It is well understood that an unsustainable demand boom fueled by terms-of-trade improvements drove this growth acceleration episode, especially in South America. Unfortunately, terms of trade are no longer fueling growth, and the region's policymakers are in search of new sources of growth with stability. With the experience of East Asia and the Pacific in mind, many policymakers in LAC are looking to international economic ties as a potential source of stable growth.

The challenge highlighted in this book lies in designing an integration agenda comprising trade and factor market integration that is conducive to region-wide efficiency gains, which can help LAC enhance its global competitiveness. The forces of geography imply that pro-growth global integration cannot be achieved without building a strong neighborhood. Thus, this volume argues that LAC's regional economic integration agenda needs to go well beyond the current spaghetti bowl of preferential trading arrangements.

*Bown, Chad P.; Lederman, Daniel; Pienknagura, Samuel; Robertson, Raymond. 2017. Better Neighbors: Toward a Renewal of Economic Integration in Latin America. Latin America and Caribbean Studies. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25736> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.*

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