Throughout the Americas, prominent politicians often find themselves before the courts over corruption charges. The prosecution of corruption is central to political accountability—voters can only hold politicians accountable if the process of judging politicians’ past actions is fair and produces information that voters trust. Partisan capture of the judiciary results instead in corruption probes that are manipulated to serve electoral interests. This talk will describe the behavior of the politicians and judicial actors who intervene in these processes and how the politicization of the judiciary hinders the role of the courts in electoral accountability.

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