In this course we explore the contemporary panorama of social and political organizations in Latin America representing (or claiming to represent) the lower orders of society. These include social movements, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and political parties, as well as the vast range of participatory fora in the region that purport to offer citizens a direct role in government decision-making. How do these different institutions seek to increase the political influence and better the lives of the excluded and marginalized, and how successful have their efforts been?

L01 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm TTh | Learn more about Jared and LAS 307

Meet the Instructor

Jared Abbott (Ph.D., Harvard University). Abbott’s research explores why large-scale experiments in citizen participation beyond elections (from participatory budgeting and public hearings to referenda and citizen initiatives) emerge in some places but not others, and the conditions under which citizen engagement can generate meaningful effects on the quality of democracy and governance. His work has appeared in Comparative Politics, Governance, The Journal of Latin American Studies, and in two edited volumes. In fall 2023, he will assume an appointment as assistant professor of political science at California State University, Los Angeles.