CLAS Lecture Series presents:

"DRIVING RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER TRANSPORT REFORMS IN LATIN AMERICA: HAVE THEY WORKED?"

Juan-Pablo Montero, Professor of Economics at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC-Chile) and Tinker Visiting Professor, Stanford University

In an effort to reduce air pollution and congestion, authorities in different cities in Latin America have experimented with different policies to persuade drivers to give up their cars in favor of public transport. In November of 1989, for example, authorities in Mexico-City introduced "Hoy-no-Circula", a driving restriction program that bans most drivers from using their vehicles one weekday per week on the basis of the last digit of the vehicle's license plate. Similar driving restrictions have also been introduced in Santiago (in 1986), São Paulo (1996), Bogotá (1998), Medellín (2005), San José (2005) and Quito (2010). In addition to these restriction policies, authorities have implemented reforms to their public transportation systems, most notably, TransMilenio in Bogotá (in December of 2000) and TranSantiago (in February of 2007). Why have authorities relied mostly on these types of policies and not on others, like road pricing? Have these policies been effective in moving people towards public transport? How fast have households adjusted their stock of vehicles in response to these policies? Have households in different income groups responded differently? By only placing restrictions on old-polluting cars, have some of these driving restriction programs helped accelerate the introduction of cleaner cars and the retirement of older cars? In this lecture, Montero will go over these questions using different data sets and models.

Juan-Pablo Montero is Professor of Economics at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC-Chile). He holds a Civil Engineering degree from PUC-Chile and M.Sc and Ph.D. degrees from MIT. He has also been a visiting professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management (2001-2002) and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2005-2006). His research and teaching concentrates in the areas of resource and environmental economics and industrial organization. His work has appeared in the Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Review, RAND Journal of Economics and The Economic Journal, among others.