

## GLOBALIZATION TRENDLAB 2014

# The Future of the State

**The Lauder Institute, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, April 15-18, 2014**

WE INVITE applications for a four-day workshop and conference from faculty and researchers affiliated with the global network of Santander Universities.

The topic of the Globalization TrendLab 2014 is **The Future of the State**. This issue has gained particular relevance in recent years given the widespread fiscal imbalances arising from the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the challenges these posed to ‘traditional’ welfare states in the industrialized world as well as developing country states struggling with reduced financial resources and governance capacities after years of structural adjustment. These developments have also highlighted the role of non-governmental organizations that are increasingly assuming social welfare functions previously carried out by the state.

The workshop and conference will also generate lively discussion around new modes of state intervention in the economy through instruments such as state-owned enterprises and sovereign wealth funds, many of which are based in increasingly wealthy emerging market economies. It will also consider the difficulties facing fragile or failed states that occupy the opposite end of the governance capacity spectrum. Direct challenges to state authority have highlighted the importance of a range of new organizations such as decentralized networks of pro-democracy groups that challenged longstanding authority structures during the Arab Spring. More worryingly, these developments have also facilitated the growth of highly centralized non-state actors that now occupy powerful governance positions. These groups range from criminal organizations that are deeply entrenched in existing formal state structures in urban Latin America to paramilitary groups that occupy governance vacuums in rural Sub-Saharan Africa. The conference will foster inter-disciplinary and comparative analysis of these types of developments in state capacity, authority and governance across diverse country contexts.

We seek to bring together leaders from academia, business, government, multilateral organizations, and nonprofits who will analyze the challenges posed under “**The Future of the State**” and propose solutions in the form of focused panels. The workshop and conference discussions will focus on issues such as:

- Government efforts to address the fiscal crisis;
- The prospects for welfare states;
- Whether the rise of ‘state capitalism’ offers a viable alternative to ‘neoliberalism’;
- The pressing issues facing fragile and failed states.

A copy of the white papers summarizing conferences held in 2011-2013 on Risk, Sustainability and Poverty and Inequality can be downloaded [here](#).

**To apply, please click [here](#).**

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