How Party Activism Survives

Political parties with activists are in decline due to various external shocks. Societal changes, like the emergence of technologies of communication, have diminished the role and number of activists, while party elites increasingly can make do without grassroots activists. However, recent scholarship concerning different democracies has shown how activism still matters for representation. This book contributes to this literature by analyzing the unique case of the Uruguayan Frente Amplio (FA), the only mass-organic, institutionalized, leftist party in Latin America. Using thick description, systematic process training, and survey research, this case study highlights the value of an organization-centered approach for understanding parties’ role in democracy in the twenty-first century. Within the FA, organizational rules grant activists a significant voice, which imbues activists’ participation with a strong sense of agency. This explains activists’ participation with a strong sense of efficacy. This book is an excellent resource for scholars and students of Latin America and comparative politics who are interested in political parties and the challenges confronting new democracies.

Verónica Pérez Bentancur holds a PhD from the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina and is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Universidad de la República del Uruguay. Her research focuses on Latin American Politics and Gender and Politics. Her work has been published in Comparative Political Studies, Revista de Ciencia Política, Revista Uruguaya de Ciencia Política, and Revista Debates.

Rafael Piñeiro Rodríguez received his PhD in political science at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and is an associate professor at the Departamento de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Católica del Uruguay. He has been published in Comparative Political Studies, Party Politics, Government Information Quarterly, Latin American Politics and Society, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Democracy, Política y Gobierno, and Revista de Ciencia Política, among others.

Fernando Rosenblatt received his PhD in political science at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and is an associate professor at the Escuela de Ciencia Política, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile.
and a researcher at the Millennium Institute for Foundational Research on Data. His book *Party Vibrancy & Democracy in Latin America* was published by Oxford University Press. He has been published in *Comparative Political Studies, Party Politics, Latin American Politics and Society, Latin American Research Review, Democratization, Política y Gobierno, and Revista de Ciencia Política*. 
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Uruguay’s Frente Amplio

VERÓNICA PÉREZ BENTANCUR
Universidad de la República

RAFAEL PIÑEIRO RODRÍGUEZ
Universidad Católica del Uruguay

FERNANDO ROSENBLATT
Universidad Diego Portales
To Lena and Manu
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We took our first steps in the discipline at the Departamento de Ciencia Política of the Universidad de la República. As BA students, we were taught by the generation of political scientists who forged the nascent discipline in Uruguay. It was also a period of scant resources for education. Yet those who formed us as political scientists instilled in us a passion for both politics and the discipline. We were all research assistants at the department, and this first experience of conducting research confirmed and reinforced our interest in pursuing a career in Political Science. Verónica earned her doctorate at the Departamento de Ciencia Política y Relaciones Internacionales of the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. Rafael and Fernando were among the first cohorts in the doctoral program in Political Science of the Instituto de Ciencia Política at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. These doctoral programs gave us a unique perspective on the research problems of the discipline,
as well as models of how to pursue scholarship in Political Science from the South. While we relish living in Latin America, close to our research subjects, doing Political Science from the South is extremely challenging. We have benefitted, however, from the professionalization and transformation of the social sciences that have taken place in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, and from their internationalization. These transformations can be seen, for example, in the activities of different global and regional networks (e.g., EGAP and REPAL) and in the organization of local initiatives with regional projection, such as the Escuela de Verano en Métodos Mixtos at the Instituto de Ciencia Política of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Escuela de Invierno en Métodos y Análisis de Datos organized by the Departamento de Ciencias Sociales of the Universidad Católica del Uruguay.

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Abbreviations

ADEOM Asociación de Empleados y Obreros Municipales (Mayoralty’s Union Workers)

ANCAP Administración Nacional de Combustibles, Alcohol y Portland (Oil, Alcohol, and Cement National Administration)

AU Asamblea Uruguay (Uruguayan Assembly)

CAP-L Corriente de Acción y Pensamiento-Libertad (Action and Thought Tendency-Freedom)

CNT Convención Nacional de Trabajadores (National Workers Convention)

CPO Causal Process Observation

DC Partido Demócrata Cristiano (Chilean Christian Democratic Party)

DSV Double Simultaneous Vote

EGAP Evidence in Governance and Politics

EP Encuentro Progresista (Progressive Encounter)

FA Frente Amplio (Broad Front)

FIDEL Frente de Izquierda de Liberación (Leftist Liberation Front)

FLS Frente Líber Seregni (Líber Seregni Front)

FRAP Frente de Acción Popular (Popular Action Front)

FREDEJUSO Frente por la Democracia y Justicia Social (Social Justice and Democracy Front)

FREPASO Frente País Solidario (Solidary Country Front)

FTA Free Trade Agreement
### Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>GAU</td>
<td>Grupos de Acción Unificadora (Groups of Unified Action)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDI</td>
<td>Izquierda Democrática Independiente (Independent Democratic Left)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISI</td>
<td>Import Substitution Industry</td>
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<td>JUP</td>
<td>Juventud Uruguaya de Pie (Uruguayan Standing Youth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAS</td>
<td>Movimiento al Socialismo (Movement toward Socialism)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MERCOSUR</td>
<td>Mercado Común del Sur (Common Market of the South)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLN</td>
<td>Movimiento de Liberación Nacional-Tupamaros (National Liberation Movement)</td>
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<td>MPG</td>
<td>Movimiento por el Gobierno del Pueblo (Movement for the Government of the People)</td>
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<td>MPP</td>
<td>Movimiento de Participación Popular (Popular Participation Movement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Nongovernmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONI</td>
<td>Organización Nacional de Independientes (National Organization of Independents)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAP-Q</td>
<td>Preanalysis Plan-Qualitative</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Partido Colorado (Colorado Party)</td>
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<td>PCCh</td>
<td>Partido Comunista de Chile (Chilean Communist Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCU</td>
<td>Partido Comunista del Uruguay (Communist Party of Uruguay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDC</td>
<td>Partido Demócrata Cristiano (Christian Democratic Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIT-CNT</td>
<td>Plenario Intersindical de Trabajadores – Convención Nacional de Trabajadores (Interunion Workers Plenary – National Workers Convention)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PJ</td>
<td>Partido Justicialista (Justicialist Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLUNA</td>
<td>Primeras Líneas Uruguayas de Navegación Aérea (First Uruguayan Airlines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PN</td>
<td>Partido Nacional (National Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POR</td>
<td>Partido Obrero Revolucionario (Revolutionary Workers Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPD</td>
<td>Partido por la Democracia (Party for Democracy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRSD</td>
<td>Partido Radical Social Demócrata (Radical Social Democratic Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCh</td>
<td>Partido Socialista de Chile (Chilean Socialist Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
<td>Partido Socialista del Uruguay (Socialist Party of Uruguay)</td>
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### Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Partido dos Trabalhadores (Workers Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVP</td>
<td>Partido por la Victoria del Pueblo (Party for the Victory of the People)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TISA</td>
<td>Trade in Services Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCR</td>
<td>Unión Cívica Radical (Civil Radical Union)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Unidad Popular (Popular Unity)</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>USSR</td>
<td>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</td>
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