

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST  
CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN AGENTS SEMINAR:

***“What is a Villa? Welcome to #31, Buenos Aires”***  
**Diego Fernández, Secretary of Social and Urban Integration,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Plimpton Room (Barker 133), 4:30-6:00 pm

*In collaboration with the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies*



Diego Fernández oversees one of the most ambitious and visionary projects in the history of Buenos Aires - integrating the "shantytown" of Villa 31 into the fabric of Argentina's capital by expanding educational infrastructure and bringing running water, a sewage system, and electricity to its 40,000 residents. Previously, Fernández was the Chief of Staff of the Buenos Aires Ministry of Education. In 2009 he also co-created G25, a non-profit organization that seeks to bridge the public and private sectors and foster public engagement. This seminar will explore the aspirations of the Villa 31 project and consider the role of creative and architectural interventions as part of transformative urbanization.



Co-sponsored by the Cultural Agents Initiative and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Cultural and Humanitarian Agents features contemporary mentors who recognize art and interpretation as fundamental to active citizenship. In the spirit of a new course offered by Harvard College, “Rx: Arts for Global Health,” the Fall seminar series dives deeper and more explicitly into the topic of “global health.” Academics, artists, and politicians across Buenos Aires, Milan, and Provincetown will pose provocative questions and reflect on personal experiences to debate the role of the arts and aesthetics in breaking disease patterns that travel not only biologically and socially, but culturally. The overarching question for this seminar is: How can the arts support global health initiatives in breaking cultural disease patterns by building cultural and humanitarian agents?

Hosted by Harvard’s Mahindra Humanities Center  
Chairs: Doris Sommer & Theresa Lund