



as derechas chilenas

## Evolution of the Right in Chile

The election of Sebastián Piñera as President of the Republic of Chile in 2010 reopened the debate regarding the formation of a “new right.” Amidst the restructuring of the Coalition for Change, new political parties emerged, such as Political Evolution and Amplitude, which claimed to stand apart from the “liberal” current. A new generation of leaders also emerged in the Independent Democratic Union and National Renewal parties.

In the Fondecyt project entitled “Explaining Political Party Changes through Institutional and Environmental Sociology: A case study of the Chilean Right,” Dr. Stéphanie Alenda, Director for the School of Sociology at the Universidad Andrés Bello, seeks to reveal the evolution and new conformation of the right in Chile.

“Given that these changes in the party will have undeniable repercussions on the structure of the current opposing coalition, this is greatly relevant for understanding what is at stake in the Chilean party system, whose rules of competition for the control of political power are also in the middle of redefinition,” explains Dr. Alenda.

This investigation forms part of a larger project headed by the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. This international collaboration is studying the power dynamics of right-wing political parties in the three countries of the Southern Cone, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

Among Dr. Alenda’s objectives are producing new understandings of the organizational and institutional characteristics of right-wing parties, concepts that have been rarely explored in Chile and by the political sciences. Moreover, a psychographic profile will be constructed for the political figureheads of four parties, including the Independent Democratic Union, National Renewal, Political Evolution, and Amplitude. These profiles will be used to explore the diversity and transformations of the leaders contributing to political reconstruction, in addition to constructing an image of local supporters, showing their characteristics and nuances. Additionally, the investigation intends to examine the role of political think tanks and foundations in the creation and renewal of the ideological and programmatic spheres.

Four methodological axes will be used: psychographic profiles constructed through a poll of approximately 1,200 political leaders; biographical data collected via in-depth interviews; sociohistorical information gained through the collection and analysis of documents; and network analysis, which will uncover the relationships established between separate social sectors (i.e. political, economic, and religious).