

# “Comparative Research and Public Policy: From Authoritarianism to Democracy”

**Jose Joaquin Brunner**

Government School graduate studies coordinator, Adolfo Ibanez University, Chile

**Thursday, 11 March**

**11:00 A.M.**

**238 HRCB**

Honored guest at the Comparative and International Education Society conference in Salt Lake City (see [cies.byu.edu](http://cies.byu.edu)) and recipient of their Kneller Award, Jose Joaquin Brunner is well known for his distinguished service to the worldwide community of education scholars and practitioners. Born in Santiago, Chile, Brunner earned his law degree at the Catholic University in Santiago and was active in politics from an early age. At the age of twenty-four, he became the president of the Union of University Federation of Chile at a time of intense student political activism. His participation with this movement ended in 1970 with the democratic election of President Salvador Allende. At around that time, Brunner began his academic career at the Catholic University of Chile, where he eventually became director of institutional planning in the office of the university's rector. When the military government took power in 1973, bringing down the government of President Allende, military-appointed personnel took over the administration of Chilean universities. Brunner was expelled from the university, choosing to spend the next three years in the United Kingdom where he undertook graduate study in the sociology of education at Oxford University under the direction of the renowned



sociologist, A.H. Halsey. Brunner returned from his self-imposed exile in 1976, during the height of the Chilean dictatorship, and assumed leadership of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), which he directed for ten years in Santiago. In 1994, Brunner was invited by Chile's President Eduardo Frei to preside over a non-partisan commission to propose a design for the reform of the Chilean education system. The final report, well known today as “Informe Brunner,” served as the foundation for the general education reform underway in Chile to the present time. Since January 2000, Brunner has been working as the senior professor responsible for graduate studies at the Government School of Adolfo Ibanez University, the most prestigious private university in Chile. At the same time, he is a director of the Program for Innovation in Education of the Chilean Foundation, one of Chile's principal centers for technology transfer and a leading program for the experimental use of ICT in schools—responsible for the much-acclaimed improvement in the quality of Chilean schools through appropriate applications of communication technology.