The challenges of Nicolás Maduro’s president terms in Venezuela encompass sharp socio-political polarization and political and economic hardships. A swift decline of oil prices, a campaign of destabilization, US sanctions, and Maduro’s failure to appreciate the importance of market dynamics are some factors at play. Ellner will discuss the dynamics within Chavismo and between Chavismo and the opposition in Venezuela, their impacts for Venezuelans, and implications for US - Venezuela and Latin American relations.

Steve Ellner earned his Ph.D. in Latin American History at the University of New Mexico in 1980. Since 1977, he has taught Economic History and Political Science at the Universidad de Oriente in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela. He has been a Visiting Professor in various US universities in the fields of Latin American History and Political Science. Ellner has published several books on Venezuela and Latin America and has been a regular contributor to NACLA: Report on the Americas, Commonweal, and In These Times, among others.