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**Convergence in Latin America: Illuminating
the Pink Tide and Iranian Nexus Through
Social Network Analysis**

Bauer, Matt; Maggard, Andrew; Murray, Robbie

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Convergence in Latin America

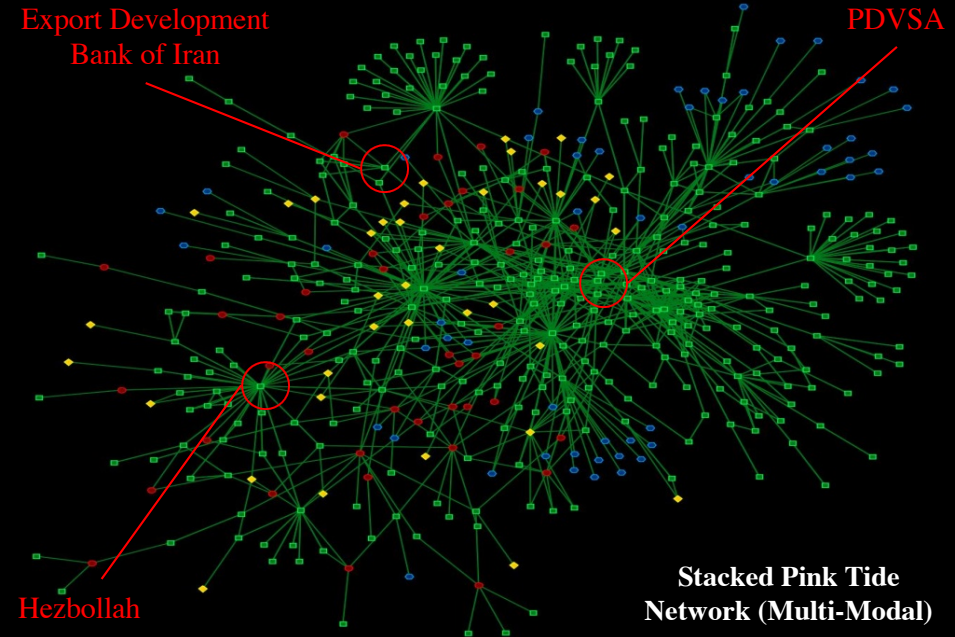
Research Title: Convergence in Latin America: Illuminating the Pink Tide and Iranian Nexus Through Social Network Analysis

Authors: MAJs Matt Bauer, Andrew Maggard, Robbie Murray (all 7th SFG(A))

(Advisors: Prof. Doowan Lee, Prof. Sean Everton)

Background:

- Rise of leftist, populist governments in Latin America in early 2000s
- Coined the “Pink Tide”; spearheaded by Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.
- Fervent anti-U.S. hegemony rhetoric.
- Complex array of regional organizations, governmental institutions, quasi-private corporations, and political movements with ties to Transnational, Transregional, Threat Networks (T3N).



Research Design:

- We used open-source materials to unravel the relationships and illuminate the Pink Tide network.
- The project leveraged the use of social network analysis (SNA) methodology to identify key seams in the Pink Tide network that illicit organizations and T3N are leveraging to build access and influence in the Pink Tide and across Latin America.
- The team conducted exploratory spatial and temporal analysis of the Pink Tide to identify the most central geographic areas of the network and key points of network convergence.

USASOC Benefits:

- Will enable recommendations for decision makers on methods to monitor adversary interactions in Latin America, or potential areas to leverage for increased U.S. engagement in areas with limited to no access for the U.S. Government and Department of Defense.
- Provide measures of effectiveness for human domain interaction.

Cultural

1982 – 2000s:

- Establishment of Cultural Centers
- Coopting Local Mosques
- Leveraging Diaspora Communities
- Recruitment of Indigenous Groups

Diplomatic

2006-2009:

- Establishment of 6 New Embassies (Coinciding with prominent ALBA members or robust illicit networks)
- Iran Receives ALBA Observer Status

Economic

2006 – 2009:

- Large Scale Development (Nicaragua Port, Venezuelan Factories)
- Iranian Ties to Banco del Sur and Sucre
- Uranium Mining Exploration
- Unfettered Shipping

Security Cooperation

2007 – Present:

- Mil to Mil Engagements
- ALBA Defense School
- Ecuador/Iran Intel and Security Training
- Sharing of Missile Technology
- Venezuelan Drone Factory and National Police Training