ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY
OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY (ASCE)

Nineteenth Annual Meeting
The Miami Hilton Downtown
July 30–31 and August 1, 2009

Conference Program

Current Economic and Political Situation
Joaquin Pujol, IMF (ret.)
Oscar Espinosa Chepe, Independent Economist, La Habana
Juan del Aguila, Emory University
Marifeli Pérez-Stable, Florida International University and Inter-American Dialogue

Cuba-U.S. Relations
Carlos Saladrigas, Cuba Study Group, “Creating an Enabling Transitional Environment in Cuba”
Ambassador James Cason, Center for a Free Cuba, “The Case Against Unlimited Travel to Cuba as an Agent for Democratization”
Maria C. Werlau, "Promoting Reform in Cuba: A Bold U.S. Policy to Foster Multilateral Support"
Dan Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue, “The Cuba Wars: An Update”
Discussants: Gary Maybarduk, Foreign Service Analytics; Alfred Cuzan, University of West Florida.

Current and Future Economic Reforms
Rolando Castañeda, “Why Raúl is Half Right but Completely Wrong”
Enrique Pumar, Catholic University of America, “The Arduous Path for Political Liberalization in Cuba”
Chris Baker, “Financial Reforms and Small Entrepreneurs”
Discussants: Lorenzo Pérez, IMF (retired); Rafael Romeu, IMF

Labor Issues
John Thornton, de Campo & Thornton, “The Curacao Dry Dock Case- A Case of Forced Labor”
George Plinio Montalván, “Corporate Social Responsibility in Practice: The Case of Cuba”
Discussants: Gerald Becerra, ILA; Efrén Córdova; Tomás Bilbao, Cuba Study Group

The Global Financial and Economic Crisis
Luis R. Luis, “Cuban External Finance and the Global Economic Crisis ”
Lorenzo Pérez, “The Potential Impact of the Global Economic and Financial Crisis on Cuba”
Rafael Romeu and Andrew Wolfe, International Monetary Fund, “Caribbean Tourism, OECD Recession, and Three Degrees of Unrestricted Travel”
Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland, “Democracy’s Dimensions and Cuba’s Development in the Aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis”
Discussants: Ricardo Lago, FIU; Rolando Castañeda, IDB (retired)

Recovering Cuba’s Looted Artwork
Tania C. Mastrapa, Mastrapa Consultants, “Identifying and Locating Looted Art from Cuba”
Mari-Claudia Jimenez, J.D., Herrick Feinstein, LLP, “Legal Alternatives for Cuban Art Restitution”
Discussant: Ray Zamora, Art Collector and Dealer

Measuring Cuban GDP/Consumption
John Devereux, Queens College/Graduate Center CUNY, “The Road not Taken: Pre-Revolutionary Cuban Living Standards in Comparative Perspective”
Luis Locay, University of Miami, “Cuba’s Socioeconomic Indicators Before the Revolution”
John Devereux, Queens College/Graduate Center CUNY, and Luis Locay, University of Miami, “An Alternative Consumption Estimate for Cuba in the Communist Period”
Jorge Pérez-López and Carmelo Mesa-Lago, “Cuba’s GDP Statistics Under the Special Period: Discontinuities, Obfuscation, and Puzzles”
Discussants: Roberto Orro; Mario A. González-Corzo, Lehman College, City University of New York

Legal Issues
Matías Travieso-Díaz, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP, “Lifting the Cuban Embargo: The New Labors of Hercules”
Larry Catá Backer and Augusto I. Molina, Pennsylvania State University, “Globalizing Cuba: ALBA and the Construction of Socialist Trade Systems”
Michael Strauss, Centre d’Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques, Paris, France, “Perspectives on the Future of Guantanamo Bay”
Discussant: Stephen Kimmerling, Office of the President, The New School; José Palli, World Wide Title; Manuel Supervielle, Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Agriculture and Sugar
G.B. Hagelberg and José Alvarez, “Cuban Agriculture: The Return of the campesinado”
Willard Radell, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, “Economic Logic in Cuba’s 2002 Sugar Industry Re-structuring?”
Juan Tomás Sánchez, “Inputs for an Efficient Cuban Agriculture: Sugar Cane, Rice, Beans and Corn Production”
Discussants: José Alvarez; Antonio Gayoso

Student Papers
Ana Cristina Maldonado, St. Thomas University, “Legal Dissent: Constitutional Proposals for ‘Cambio’ in Cuba”
Silvia Dreher, University of Basel, Switzerland, “Monetary Policy in Cuba”
Brenden M. Carbonell, University of Pennsylvania Law School, “Cuban Corporatism: Batista’s Three-Year Plan and a Nation Betrayed”
Karen Kajder, University of Miami, “Conceptual Design of a Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Municipality of Cotorro, Province of Havana, Cuba”
John M. Barrios, Cornell University, “Operation Truth Revisited: An In-Depth Review of Fidel Castro’s First Trip to the United States”
Discussants: María Dolores Espino, St. Thomas University.
Official ASCE Luncheon
Keynote Speaker: Tom Gjelten, “The Bacardi Story and Cuba’s Future”

Investment, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Policy
Eric Baklanoff, University of Alabama, “A Bountiful Legacy: U.S. Investment in Cuba During the 1950s”
Roberto Orro, “Petrolism in Cuba and Implications of U.S. Investment in the Cuban Oil Sector”
Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Military Institute, “Fifteen Years of Entrepreneurship in Cuba: Challenges and Opportunities”
Discussants: Maria Werlau; Juan Belt, USAID

Social and Economic Issues
Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh, “Fifty Years of Revolution in Cuba: Economic-Social Balance”
Pete Martinez, The Quantum Group, “A Profile of Cuba’s Controversial Healthcare System”
Rolando Castañeda, “La ayuda económica de Venezuela a Cuba”
Discussants: Lorenzo Pérez, IMF (retired); Sergio Díaz-Briquets; Juan Calvo, U.S.-Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce

Island-Diaspora Interactions
Joaquín Pérez, Campol Group, “El futuro de las remesas en Cuba”
Mario A. González-Corzo, Lehman College, City University of New York, “Review of ASCE’s Contribution to the Literature on Remittances to Cuba: 1991–2008”
Discussants: Jorge Pérez-López; Ricardo Puerta

Narcotics and Migration in the Caribbean: The Cuban Problem
Capt. Peter J. Brown, 7th Coast Guard District (Caribbean), “Narcotics and Illegal Immigration: The Current Situation”
Randy Beardsworth, Olive and Edwards, former Assistant Secretary for Strategic Plans and Acting Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security, “The Importance of Growing Functional Relationships with Cuba”
Gary H. Maybarduk, Foreign Service Analytics, former Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs, US Interests Section Havana, “Can Cuba Avoid Becoming a Narco-State?”
Discussant: Daniel Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue

The Effects of Disasters in Cuba
William Messina, University of Florida, “Cuban Agriculture and the Impacts of Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike”
Sergio Díaz-Briquets, “The Deepening Housing Crisis: The Impact of Hurricanes”
José Luis Batista Silva, Instituto de Geografía Tropical, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, “Magnitud y frecuencia de los ciclones más dañinos para Cuba durante la temporada del 2008”
B.E. Aguirre, University of Delaware, “Cuba’s Emergency Management and the Need for a Holistic Interpretation of Risk”
Discussants: Alnunfo Carrandi; Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Military Institute
Infrastructure: Water/Wastewater/ Transportation


Armando I. Perez, Camp Dresser & McKee Inc.; Roberto Cardona, Wolfberg Alvarez; Luis Locay, University of Miami; and Helena Solo-Gabriele, University of Miami, “Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Priorities for Cuba with Emphasis on Havana, Including Some Benefit-Cost Considerations”


Discussants: Joanna Gutierrez, SouthCOM

Society and Politics

Dagoberto Valdés, Revista Convivencia, Pinar del Río, Cuba, “Sin solidaridad no hay libertad” (presented by Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan)

Berta Mexidor, Bibliotecas Independientes Inc. and Latin American Network for Democracy, “El papel de las bibliotecas independientes en la incipiente sociedad civil cubana”

Simone Grant, University at Albany, “Cuban Civil Society Revisited: An Examination of the Theory and Reality”

Discussant: Soren Triff, University of Massachusetts/Bristol Community College; Maria Aristigueta, University of Delaware

The Electric Power Sector in Cuba: Coping with a Changing World


Manuel Cereijo, University of Miami, “The Power Sector: Coping with Natural Disasters”

Ronald Soligo and Amy Myers Jaffe, Rice University, “Energy Balances and the Potential for Biofuels in Cuba”

Discussants: Discussant: Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland; Jorge Sanguinetti, Dev Tech