**Cuba From the Castros to COVID: An ASCE Virtual Conference**
August 13-15, 2020

August 13, 10.15 am – 10.30 am

**INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

ASCE President (2018-2020) *Silvia Pedraza*, University of Michigan

August 13, 10.30 a.m. – Noon

1. **The Cuban Economy and Prospects After COVID-19**

   Chair: *Silvia Pedraza*, University of Michigan  
   *Larry Catá-Backer*, Pennsylvania State University, and *Yuri Gonzalez Hernandez*, Cuban Lawyer, “Cuba’s Response to COVID-19 and the Consequences for Cuba of the Pandemic”  
   *Ricardo Torres Pérez*, Universidad de la Habana, “The Cuban economic puzzle after the pandemic”  

August 13, 2.30 pm – 4 pm

2. **The Cuba-Venezuela Economic Relationship**

   Chair: *Gary Maybarduk*, U.S. Department of State (retired)  
   *Carmelo Mesa-Lago*, University of Pittsburgh, “Adverse External Sector Impacts on the Cuban Economy”  
   *Luis R. Luis*, “Venezuelan-Cuban Mutual Aid: Grants, Subsidies and Fantasies"  
August 14, 10.30 am - Noon

3. “Destrabando” the Cuban Economy: An Assessment of Reforms and the Road Ahead

Chair: Natalia Delgado, Columbia University
Pavel Vidal, Universidad Javeriana de Cali, Colombia, "The Great Lockdown and the Cuban Economy: First Impacts and Policy Responses"  
Pedro Manuel Monreal Gonzalez, UNESCO, “Companies and the sequence of economic reform in Cuba.”


August 14, 2.30 pm – 4 pm

4. Carlos Díaz Alejandro Lecture

Chair: Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University
Distinguished Speaker:  
Discussant:  
Tanya K. Hernandez, Fordham University Law School


August 15, 10.30 am – Noon

5. Roundtable on Currency Developments

Chair: Joaquin Pujol, International Monetary Fund (retired)
Experts:
Roberto Orro, Caribbean Analysis Unit, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Pavel Vidal, Universidad Javeriana de Cali, Colombia
Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo, La Habana
Rafael Romeu, DevTech Systems
Lorenzo Pérez, International Monetary Fund (retired)
August 15, 2.30 pm – 4 pm

6. Student Panel

Chair: Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, CUNY
Adriana Vitagliano, Oxford University, "Remittances and Protest: The Case of Cuba."
Denisse Delgado, University of Massachusetts, "The Cuban Diaspora's Participation in the Economic and Political Changes on the Island."
Isabelle DeSisto, Harvard University, "Atoms for Autonomy: Explaining the Cuban Reaction to the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident."

Discussants:
Enrique Pumar, Santa Clara University
Michael Strauss, Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies (Paris)

August 15 4.00 pm – 4.30 pm

CLOSING REMARKS

ASCE President (2020-2022) Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired)