

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY (ASCE)

Eighteenth Annual Meeting
The Miami Hilton Downtown
August 5–7, 2008

Conference Program

Current Economic and Political Situation

Joaquín Pujol, IMF (ret.)
Oscar Espinosa Chepe, independent economist, La Habana
Frank Mora, National War College, National Defense University
Gary Maybarduk, U.S. State Department (ret.)

Monetary Duality: Issues and Challenges

Ed Canler, “Pesos, Poverty, and Perversion”
Antonio Morales-Pita, “Cómo y cuándo eliminar la doble moneda en Cuba”
Roberto Orro, “The Cuban Dual Monetary System and Challenges Ahead”
Andrew Wolfe and Gabriel Di Bella, IMF, “A Primer on Currency Unification and Exchange Rate Policy”
Discussants: Rolando Castañeda, IDB (ret.); Ernesto Hernández-Catá, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

Claims/Property Issues

Michael J. Kelly and Richard Witmer, Creighton University School of Law, “Report on the Resolution of Outstanding Property Claims Between Cuba and the United States”
Discussants: Tania Mastrapa, Mastrapa Consultants; Rodolfo Carrandi, IDB (ret.); Gary Maybarduk; Juan Tomás Sánchez.

Cuban Blogs Today: Contestation, Dialogue, and Debate in Cuba and Miami

Ted Henken, “Yoani Sánchez and the Generation Y Blog: Pushing the Limits of Debate in Today’s Cuba”
Henry Luis Gómez, Managing Director, Babalu Blog, “The Role of Blogs in Breaking the Media’s Embargo and Telling the Truth about Cuba”

Economic Topics

Juan Belt and Jorge Sanguinerty, “Cuba’s Potential Fiscal Gap during a Transition”
Larry Catá Backer, School of Law, Pennsylvania State University, “Cuba and the Development of Odious Debt Doctrine”
Ernesto Hernández-Catá, SAIS, “A Brief Comparative History of Gross Domestic Production in ‘Revolutionary’ Cuba”
Luis Locay, University of Miami, and Rodolfo González, San José State University, “The Impact of the Cuban Revolution on Cuba’s Health Outcomes”

Discussants: Lorenzo Pérez, IMF; Ricardo V. Lago, EBRD (ret.)

Tourism

María Dolores Espino, St. Thomas University, “The Tourism Sector: An Update”

Terry Maris, Ohio Northern University, “Cuban Tourism: The China Factor”

Alberto Bustamante, “Free Enterprise in Function of Patrimonial and Historical Preservation: The Project ‘Paradores de Cuba’”

Discussants: Nicolas Crespo; Rafael Romeu, IMF

External Sector Issues I

Jorge Pérez-López, “Cuba’s Foreign Trade: Becoming More Invisible”

Sergio Díaz-Briquets, “Remittances to Cuba: An Update”

Lorenzo Pérez, “Cuba: Access to Capital Markets, External Debt Burden, and Possible Avenues for debt Relief”

Discussants: Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College; Luis R. Luis

Education in Cuba

(Joint Panel with the National Association of Cuban-American Educators, NACAE)

Chair: Federico R. Justiniani, M.D., NACAE President, Professor of Medicine, Mount Sinai Medical Center, University of Miami.

Graciella Cruz-Tauro, Florida Atlantic University, “Revolution and Continuity in the History of Education in Cuba”

Andy S. Gomez, Assistant Provost and Senior Fellow, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami, “Plans for the Future of Education in a Free Cuba”

Discussant: Eduardo Zayas-Bazán, Emeritus Professor, East Tennessee State University

External Sector Issues II

Adrian Hearn, The University of Technology Sydney, “Cuba-China Commercial and Investment Relations”

José Azel, University of Miami, “Cuban Americans and Foreign Direct Investments in Post-Castro Cuba: ‘An Ace in the Hole’”

Eudel Cepero, “The Dirty Side of Moa Nickel: A Critical View from Space”

Discussants: Maria Werlau, Orbis Consulting; Sergio Díaz-Briquets

Legal Issues

Yulexys Solis, “La Constitución cubana. Su aplicación y el control de constitucionalidad de las leyes”

John Martinez Evora, “El Ejercicio de la Abogacía en Cuba”

Pablo de Cuba, “Inversión extranjera y sistema económico en la Cuba de hoy”

Discussant: Stephen Kimmerling, Esq.; Agustín de Goytisolo

Improvement of Relations between Cuba and the United States—Sociopolitical Issues

Alejandro Armengol, El Nuevo Herald, “Actualización de la Algarabía”

Rolando Castañeda, Inter-American Development Bank (ret.), “Cuba y los Estados Unidos: el potencial de una integración económica mutuamente beneficiosa”

Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, “Transition and Emigration: Political Generations in Cuba”

Discussants: Rolando Castañeda, IDB (ret.); René Costales, IDB (ret.)

Agriculture

James E. Ross, J.E. Ross & Associates and University of Florida, “Overview of Cuba’s Food Industries”

Antonio Gayoso, Thunderbird University, “Transition in Agriculture: A Message to Raúl”

William Messina, University of Florida, “Cuba’s Evolving Agricultural Patterns: Yet Another Assessment”

Discussants: G. B. Hagelberg; José Alvarez, University of Florida

Student Panel

Joan Carreras Timoneda, Arizona State University, “Dollar Diplomacy: Fallacies and Consequences of Foreign Investment in Cuba, 1909–1924”

Laura García Freyre, UNAM, “De la Iglesia a la Plaza: Las Damas de Blanco y la lucha por el espacio público en La Habana”

Improvement of Relations between Cuba and the United States—Political Economy Issues

Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, and Scott Larson, CUNY, “Survey of Cuban Remittances Forwarding Agencies (RFs) in the United States: Preliminary Findings”

Ricardo Puerta, Private Consultant, “Migración y Remesas en Honduras: Posibles Lecciones para Cuba”

Eduardo Palmer, “A Draft Transitional Law for Cuba: A Suggested Blueprint for the Reestablishment of the Rule of Law in Cuba”

Discussants : Ricardo Puerta, Private Consultant; Mario González-Corzo, CUNY Lehman College; René Costales, IDB (ret.) ; Geni Gómez, Freddie Mac; Rolando Castañeda, IDB (ret.)

Transition Issues

G.B. Hagelberg and José Alvarez , “Cuba’s Economic Culture and the Reform Process”

Roger R. Betancourt, University of Maryland and Development Research Center, and Jorge A. Sanguinety, Devtech Systems and Development Research Center, “Is There Political Will Towards Democratization in Cuba?”

Jorge Luis Romeu, “Design for Six Sigma in the Charting of a Cuban Transition”

Discussants: Armando S. Linde; Marifeli Perez-Stable, Florida International University

Special Topics

Karina Gálvez Chiu, *Convivencia*, “Papel del micropréstamo en la economía cubana de hoy y del futuro”

Ileana Fuentes, author and Founder and Chair, Red Feminista Cubana, “*Cuentapropismo* or *cuentapriapismo*: Self-Employment, Privatization and Gender”

Discussants: Uva de Aragón, Florida International University; Antonio Gayoso, Thunderbird University

Infrastructure: Power and Water/Wastewater Sectors

Manuel Cereijo, University of Miami, “Cuban Power Sector: Present Situation”

Juan A.B. Belt, USAID, “Energy Sector in Cuba: Financial and Economic Considerations”

Armando Pérez. Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers (C-AACE) and Helena Solo-Gabriele, Association of Cuban Engineers (ACE), “Water and Sanitation Issues in Cuba: A Status Report on Research”

Discussants: Jorge Piñón, University of Miami; María Porrata, Marlin Engineering

Political and Military Issues

Armando Mastrapa, “Democratic Policing and Public Security in Post-Castroism Cuba”

Dan Erikson and Paul Wander, Inter-American Dialog, “Raúl Castro and Cuba’s New Diplomacy”

Eusebio Mujal-León and Lorena Buzón, Georgetown University, “Exceptionalism and Beyond: The Case of Civil-Military Relations in Cuba”

Discussant: Jaime Suchlicki, ICCAS, University of Miami

