

The Cuba Project/Bildner Center  
The Graduate Center  
The City University of New York

**Symposium**

“Cuba Today:  
Continuity and Change since the *Período Especial*”  
(Preliminary program 9/29/04, subject to revision)

October 4-5, 2004

The Graduate Center  
The City University of New York  
[www.bildner.org](http://www.bildner.org)

Monday, October 4

**8:15-9:00 Registration/Breakfast**

Elebash Recital Hall, First Floor

**9:00-10:45 Opening Plenary**

**Changing Perceptions, Emergent Perspectives**

Moderator: Mauricio Font, The Bildner Center and The Graduate Center

- 9:05-9:25 - Critical Perspectives on Civil Society in Cuba  
*Sujatha Fernandes, Princeton University*
- 9:25-9:45 - Religion and Civil Society in Cuba  
*Margaret E. Crahan, Hunter College and The Graduate Center*
- 9:45-10:05 - Everyday Socialism and Consumer Capitalism during the Special Period  
*Katherine Gordy, Cornell University*
- 10:05-10:25 - Thinking Cuba Clearly: Policy Implications  
*Arturo López-Levy, University of Denver*
- 10:25-10:45 – Question and Answer

**10:45-11:00 Coffee Break**

Skylight Conference Room

### **11:00-12:45 Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Panel 1: Transforming the Economy: Agriculture and Energy – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: TBA

- 11:05-11:25 - A Decade of Economic Reform and Change in Cuba's Agricultural Sector  
*William Messina and Frederick Royce, University of Florida*
- 11:25-11:45 - Food Security in Cuba since the Special Period  
*James E. Ross, University of Florida*
- 11:45-12:05 - The Lawmaking Process in Cuba: The Anatomy of the Bill on Agricultural Cooperatives  
*Peter Roman, Hostos Community College and The Graduate Center*
- 12:05-12:25 - The Future of Cuba's Energy Sector: Challenges and Opportunities  
*A.F. Alhajji and Terry L. Maris, Ohio Northern University*
- 12:25-12:45 – Question and Answer

#### **Panel 2: Writers and the *Período Especial*: Echoes, Mirrors, and Waves – Room 9206/9207**

Moderator: Araceli Tinajero, City College

- 11:05-11:25 - The Importance of Soviet Traces in the Transition  
*Jacqueline Loss, University of Connecticut*
- 11:25-11:45 - Writing in the Special Period  
*Myrna García-Calderón, Cornell University*
- 11:45-12:05 - Hegemony of Form: Change and Continuity in the Cuban Social Discourse  
*Alfonso-Garcia Osuna, Kingsborough Community College*
- 12:05-12:25 - Literary Production in the Special Period  
*Patricia D. Catoira, Montana State University-Bozeman*
- 12:25-12:45 – Question and Answer

### **12:45-1:45 Lunch Break**

Dining Commons, Eighth Floor

### **1:45-3:30 Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Panel 3: Transforming the Economy: New Actors and Dilemmas – Room 9206/9207**

Moderator: Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers and Columbia University

- 1:50-2:10 - Los problemas del desarrollo y la inserción internacional de Cuba  
*Mauricio de Miranda Parrondo, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, Colombia*
- 2:10-2:30 - Evolution or Revolution? Cuba's Banking and Financial Sector Reforms after the Special Period  
*Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College*

- 2:30-2:50 - To Live Outside the Law You Must be Honest: Daily Illegality and Its Effects  
*Dick Cluster, University of Massachusetts, Boston*
- 2:50-3:10 - The Informal Economy of Havana  
*Samuel Taylor, Yale University*
- 3:10-3:30 – Question and Answer

**Panel 4: Gender and Sexuality since the 1990s – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: Arnaldo Cruz-Malave, Fordham University

- 1:50-2:10 - Party and State in Cuba: A Gender Perspective  
*Ilja A. Luciak, Virginia Tech*
- 2:10-2:30 - Love and Sex Tourism in Havana: An Ethnographic Perspective  
*Gisela Fosado, University of Michigan*
- 2:30-2:50 - The Women of CUJAE: Breaking the Glass Ceiling in Engineering  
*Cindy O'Hara and Gilda Vega Cruz\**
- 2:50-3:10 - Continuity and Change in Women's Short Fiction Production since the 'Período Especial'  
*Barbara Riess, Allegheny College*
- 3:10-3:30 - Sex in the Narrative of the 1990s  
*Eduardo Béjar, Middlebury College*

**3:30-3:45 Coffee Break**

Skylight Conference Room

**3:45-5:30 Concurrent Sessions**

**Panel 5: New Migration, Changing Diaspora – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: Robert Smith, Baruch College

- 3:50-4:10 - On Deconstructing Immigrant Generations: Cohorts and the Cuban Emigré Experience  
*Susan Eckstein, Boston University*
- 4:10-4:30 - Leaving Cuba: *Balseros*, *Boteros* and *el Bombo*  
*Ted Henken, Baruch College*
- 4:30-4:50 - God Has No Borders: Transnational Religious Ties Between Cubans in Miami and on the Island  
*Katrin Hansing, University of Bayreuth, Germany*
- 4:50-5:10 - Occupying Havana: Property, Race and Cuban Diasporic Literature  
*Antonio López, Rutgers University*
- 5:10-5:30 – Question and Answer

**Panel 6: Engaging Perplexity: Films, Media, and the Performing Arts – Room 9206/9207**

Moderator: Jerry Carlson, The City College of New York and The Graduate Center

- 3:50-4:10 - Between *Sueño* and *Esperanza* in Post-Soviet Cuba: “Suite Habana” and “*Un Enano en La Botella*”

*Elliot Young, Lewis and Clark College*

- 4:10-4:30 - *Chago de Guisa* and the Performance of a Syncretic Identity of Tolerance and Resistance in Cuba's 'Special Period'  
*Elizabeth Ruf, Columbia University*
- 4:30-4:50 - *The Nueva Trova Cubana: Empty Rhetoric or Critical Voice?*  
*Lauren Shaw, The Graduate Center*
- 4:50-5:10 - Cuban *Choteo* Revisited: The Role of Humor in Recent Works of Literature and Film  
*Iraida H. Lopez, Ramapo College of New Jersey*
- 5:10-5:30 – Question and Answer

Tuesday, October 5

**8:30-9:00 Registration/Breakfast**

Skylight Conference Room, Ninth Floor

**9:00-10:45 Concurrent Sessions**

**Panel 7: Environment: From Concern to Active Environmentalism – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: *Avecita Chicchón, Wildlife Conservation Society*

- 9:05-9:25 - Environmental Planning and Heritage Tourism in Cuba  
*Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Tech*
- 9:25-9:45 - Cuban Environmental Conservation since the Special Period: Marine Protected Areas as a Window on Changing Social, Ecological and Economic Relationships  
*Alison G. Cliath, Washington State University and Wendy Weisman, Rutgers University*
- 9:45-10:05 - Sustainable Sovereignty: Political Aspects of Australian Environmental Collaboration with Cuba  
*Adrian H. Hearn, La Trobe University (Australia)*
- 10:05-10:25 - Who Owns Paradise? A History of Cuba's Environment and Environmentalists  
*Alexander Nixon, Stanford University\**
- 10:25-10:45 – Question and Answer

**Panel 8: Resurgent Ethnic Identities – Room 9206/9207**

Moderator: *Ruth Behar, University of Michigan*

- 9:05-9:25 - 'Renace el sueño.' Remaking Havana's Barrio Chino  
*Kathleen López, University of Michigan*
- 9:25-9:45 - Special Identities in the Special Period: The Case of West Indian Cubans  
*Andrea Queeley, The Graduate Center*
- 9:45-10:05 - Boricuas In The Caribbean  
*Pedro Pedraza, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College*

- 10:05-10:25 - Chinese-Cubans in Cuban History: From Near Slavery to the ‘Período Especial’  
*Terri R. Dabney, New School University*
- 10:25-10:45 – Question and Answer

**10:45-11:00 Coffee Break**

Skylight Conference Room

**11:00-12:45 Concurrent Sessions**

**Panel 9: Religion and Society – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: Margaret Crahan, The Graduate Center and Hunter College

- 11:05-11:25 - Old Tensions, New Hopes: Religion in Contemporary Cuba  
*Yolanda Prieto, Ramapo College*
- 11:25-11:45 - Reflections of Religion and the Contemporary Cuban Black Public Sphere: Afro Cuban Community in a Contemporary Habanero Ifa House Temple  
*Ariel Fernandez, Rutgers University*
- 11:45-12:05 - Change in Cuban Social Work Education: Government Response to Emerging Societal Problems  
*David Strug, Yeshiva University*
- 12:05-12:25 - Proyecto DIASPORA(S): Raising Questions about the Coupling of Nation and National Art in Post-Soviet Cuba.”  
*Todd Ramón Ochoa, Columbia University*
- 12:25-12:45 – Question and Answer

**Panel 10: Havana: Renegotiating Space and Identity – Room 9206/9207**

Moderator: Jill Hamberg, Empire State College-SUNY

- 11:05-11:25 - Private Plots, State Power and the Modeling of Havana’s Urban Gardens  
*Adriana Premat, York University, Toronto and NYU*
- 11:25-11:45 - Centro Habana: Ruins and the Fiction Industry  
*Esther Whitfield, Brown University*
- 11:45-12:05 - Negotiating Changing Identities through the Urban Space of Havana  
*Cecilia Lawless, Cornell University*
- 12:05-12:25 - Homosexuals and Public Space in Havana  
*Scott Larson, Hunter College*
- 12:25-12:45 – Question and Answer

**1:00-2:00 Lunch Break**

Dining Commons, Eighth Floor

**2:00-3:45 Concurrent Sessions**

**Panel 11: Cuba in a Changing World – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: Sujatha Fernandes, Princeton University

- 2:05-2:25 - Washington’s Cuba Wars: An Update  
*Daniel P. Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue*

- 2:25-2:45 - Gorbachev's Legacy for Russian/Cuban Relations Post 1991  
*Mervyn J. Bain, University of Aberdeen (U.K.)*
- 2:45-3:05 - Cuba-Mexico Relations: From Salinas to Fox: Real and Perceived Effects of Changing the Benchmark of Legitimacy  
*Patricia Olney, Southern Connecticut State University*
- 3:05-3:25 - Continuity and Change in Argentine-Cuban Relations  
*Kezia McKeague, Wake Forest University*
- 3:25-3:45 – Question and Answer

**Panel 12: Cuba and the Information Age – Room 9206/9207**

Moderator: Alfonso Quiroz, Baruch College and The Graduate Center

- 2:05-2:25 - Facing the Internet Dilemma. The Political Challenges of the New Information and Communication Technologies  
*Bert Hoffman, Institute of Iberoamerican Studies (Hamburg, Germany)*
- 2:25-2:45 - History of the Cuban National Library: Shaping Culture and Politics  
*Carlos Riobó, Barnard College*
- 2:45-3:05 - Foreign Direct Investment in Costa Rica's High Technology Sectors: A Potential Avenue for Cuba?  
*Omar E. Perez Villanueva, Centro de Estudios de la Economía\**  
*Paolo Spadoni, University of Florida*
- 3:05-3:45 – Question and Answer

**4:00-5:30 Closing Plenary**

**Where is Cuba Heading? – Room 9204/9205**

Moderator: Mauricio Font, The Bildner Center and The Graduate Center

- 4:05-4:25 - The Ruth Room and Other Tales From the New Cuba  
*Ruth Behar, University of Michigan*
- 4:25-4:45 – TBA  
*Susan Kaufman Purcell, The Americas Society/Council of the Americas*
- 4:45-5:05 – TBA  
*Luly Duke, Fundación Amistad*
- 5:05-5:25 - The Cuban Transition and Its Politics  
*Samuel Farber, The Graduate Center and Brooklyn College*
- 5:25-5:30 - Closing Comments