



Colloquium

Transforming the Cuban Economic Model

June 3, 2013



BILDNER CENTER

for Western Hemisphere Studies

**THE
GRADUATE
CENTER**
CITY UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK

www.CubaProject.org
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Cuba Futures Initiative



The Cuba Futures Initiative aims at developing a policy-oriented network on changes and transformations in Cuba. Members and participants share a rigorous academic approach and pursue their interests through meetings (including workshops), research, publications, and outreach. The Initiative adopts a flexible process of policy-oriented network development adapted to Cuba's complex and shifting conditions. One of our aims is to explore links between a changing Cuba and broader Latin America/Western Hemisphere processes to generate sound ideas and frameworks for studying the connection between current (and historical) dynamics and future developments.

Acknowledgments



The Bildner Center and the Cuba Project are grateful for the generous support from the following foundations:

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Cuba Futures Initiative

Transforming the Cuban Economic Model

Monday, June 3, 2013

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Room 9205/07

The Graduate Center

365 Fifth Avenue (@ 34th Street)

After 2008 the presidency of Raúl Castro took steps to revamp the highly centralized form of socialism for which Cuba had been known. Though Cuba's *Actualización* draws from other experiences of socialist reform, it appears to be a distinctive approach. The Cuba Project/Bildner Center Colloquium provides an update on the evolving policies and the structural and institutional changes in progress in 2013. The colloquium closes with a review of policy and research implications.



Program

Session #1: Current Economic Dynamics

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Room 9206/07

Del ajuste externo a una nueva concepción del socialismo cubano

Juan Triana Cordoví, *University of Havana*

New Policies and Long-term Prospects

Emily Morris, *Institute of the Americas, University College London*

The Cuban Reform Process in Perspective

Mauricio Font, *Bildner Center and The Graduate Center, CUNY*

The China Impact in Cuba

Adrian Hearn, *The University of Sydney*

Moderator: **M. Font & M. González-Corzo**

11:00 AM - 11:10 AM -- Coffee break

Session #2: Cooperatives and Microfinance

11:10 AM - 12:40 PM, Room 9206/07

Cooperatives in Cuba: Current Situation and Prospects

Camila Piñeiro, *University of Havana*

Primer año de la apertura a las microfinanzas en Cuba

Pavel Vidal, *Javeriana University, Cali, Colombia*

Private, Social and Hybrid Funding and Ownership Structure in Microfinance

Jonathan Conning, *Hunter College and The Graduate Center*

Moderator: **Emily Morris**

12:40 PM - 1:40 PM -- Lunch

Program

Session #3: Planning and Fiscal Reforms

1:40 PM - 2:40 PM, Room 9206/07

Economic Planning and Uncertainty in Cuba

Oscar Fernández Estrada, *University of Havana*

Reforma fiscal en Cuba: Implicaciones y Retos

Saira Pons, *University of Havana*

Moderator: **Jonathan Conning**

2:40 PM - 2:50 PM -- Coffee break

Session #4: Transforming Agriculture

2:50 PM - 4:50 PM, Room 9206/07

The Strategic Importance of the Sugar Agroindustry

Armando Nova, *University of Havana*

Cuba's Sugar Industry: Recent Performance

Mario González-Corzo, *Lehman College, CUNY*

Sugar Production and Derivatives in the International Market

Lázaro Peña, *University of Havana*

The Bio-Energy Industry: Current Situation and Future Prospects

Federico Sulroca, *Grupo AZCUBA*

Moderator: **Mauricio Font**

4:50 PM - 5:00 PM -- Break

Program

ROUNDTABLE: Research and Policy Implications

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Room 9206/07

Closing Remarks

While some of our panelists will present in Spanish, each panel/session will have Power-point outlines in English as well as one presentation in English. Moreover, the Q&A will be in both English and Spanish.

Selected presentations will be compiled in a short volume including analyses of each of the areas covered. Each chapter will provided a summary of the reforms and changes since 2008.



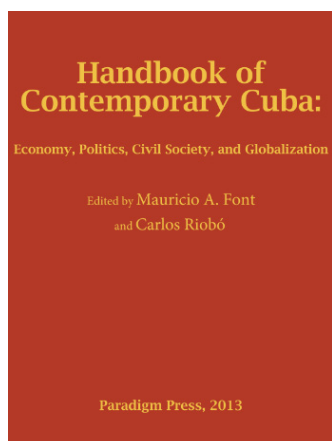


CUBA FUTURES SERIES

Handbook of Contemporary Cuba: Economy, Politics, Civil Society, and Globalization

(Paradigm Press, 2013, Forthcoming)

Edited by Mauricio A. Font and Carlos Riobó



Cuban studies is a highly dynamic field shaped by the country's distinctive political and economic circumstances. The Handbook of Contemporary Cuba is an up-to-date and comprehensive assessment offering the latest research available from a broad array of disciplines and perspectives. The Handbook offers contributions from leading scholars from the United States, Cuba, Europe, and other world regions. The Handbook's general introduction and its section introductions survey the key literature in the field in relation to rapidly changing events on the island and in global political and economic affairs. This volume addresses timely development on civil society, including human rights. The Handbook presents economic models and forecasts as well as

analyses of the recent, pivotal Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba. For students, scholars, and experts in government, the Handbook of Contemporary Cuba is vital to any collection on Latin American studies or global politics.

For a complete list of publications visit www.cubaproject.org/publications
or www.bildner.org

Presenters

Jonathan Conning (Ph.D., Yale University) is Associate Professor of Economics at Hunter College and The Graduate Center and an affiliate at NYU's Financial Access Initiative. His research interests center on microeconomics and the economics of property rights and contracts in development, trade and political economy. His writing has explored the structure and operation of rural financial markets (in Chile and elsewhere), microfinance and social investment, agrarian organization, property rights reforms, and economic history. Raised in Chile, he has remained a regular visitor to the country, on several occasions as a visiting researcher or Fulbright Scholar at the University of Chile's Centro de Economía Aplicada.



Juan Triana Cordoví is professor at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) at the University of Havana. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Havana in 1999 and an M.A. in Latin American and Cuban Studies from the University of Havana in 1996. He graduated with a B.A. in economics from the University of Havana in 1977 and obtained an advanced degree in Agricultural Development and Planning from FAO-PROCAPLAN, ONU in Buenos Aires in 1990. He has been a guest lecturer at ILAS, University of London, University of Wolverhampton, University of Nottingham, Institute of Latin American Studies at Sorbonne University, Cuban Research Institute, at Florida International University, University of Oviedo, Spain, and Seoul University in South Korea.



Oscar Fernández Estrada is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Havana. He is head of the National Economy Planning Department at the University of Havana. His research includes the functioning characteristics of the Cuban economy, national economic planning, and comparative socio-economic systems. Dr. Fernández Estrada received the University of Havana Research Prize in 2011 for his work on the Cuban economic model. He has been Director of the Planning and Statistics Office of the University of Havana, and he is currently the Head of the Department of National Economy Planning of the Faculty of Economics. He is Member of the Scientific Council of the Economics Faculty; member of the Permanent PhD Tribunal of Applied Economy at the University of Havana and Secretary of the Executive Board of the Cuban Scientific Society for Planning of the National Economists and Accountings Association of Cuba. He has also been Delegate to the Provincial Assembly of Popular Power in Havana and the provincial parliament for 10 years.

Presenters

Mauricio Font (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is Director of the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies and Professor of sociology at The Graduate Center and Queens College, CUNY. He is co-editor of *Cuban Counterpoints: The Legacy of Fernando Ortiz* (Lexington Books, 2005), *La República Cubana y José Martí (1902-2002)* (Lexington Books, 2005), *Toward a New Cuba?* (Lynne Rienner, 1997) and *Integración económica y democratización: América Latina y Cuba* (Instituto de Estudios Internacionales, Universidad de Chile, 1998). He is editor of numerous volumes on Cuba. Professor Font is currently working on *The State and the Private Sector in Latin America* (Palgrave, forthcoming), *Handbook of Contemporary Cuba: Economy, Politics, Civil Society, and Globalization* and *Handbook on Cuban History, Literature, and the Arts* (Paradigm Press, 2012, Forthcoming).



Mario González-Corzo (Ph.D., Rutgers University) is Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Lehman College of The City University of New York (CUNY), where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in economics and finance and serves as Director of the Master of Science (M.S.) Business Program. His research and areas of specialization include Cuba's post-Soviet economic developments, the role of remittances in the Cuban economy, and Cuba's banking and agricultural sectors. Dr. González Corzo is a contributing editor for the section on Cuban political economy and economics of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* (HLAS) published by the Library of Congress. He is also a Research Associate at the Cuba Transition Project of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS) at the University of Miami (FL), where he publishes *Enfoque Económico*.



Presenters

Adrian H. Hearn, currently an Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow, is coordinator of International Relations at the University of Sydney China Studies Center. He is also Chair of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Section for Asia and the Americas, and is currently managing a project for the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) on Australia-Cuba cooperation in Asia-Pacific health systems. Focusing on China's global impact, he has undertaken research in Cuba (three years), Senegal (one year), China (one year), and Mexico (one year). In 2008 Adrian was awarded a Kiriama Fellowship from the University of San Francisco for his work on China's relations with Mexico, and the Díaz-Ayala Award from Florida International University for his study of China's historical ties with Cuba. Dr. Hearn's publications include *Cuba: Religion, Social Capital, and Development* (Duke University Press, 2008) and *China Engages Latin America: Tracing the Trajectory* (Lynne Rienner, 2011).



Emily Morris is a Research Fellow at University College London's Institute of the Americas (UCLIA) and teaches "Society and Development in Latin America: Cuba since 1990" at he Institute. Dr. Morris is currently working on a book on Cuban economic policy after 1990--*Rethinking the Cuban Economy* (forthcoming, University of Florida Press). Before returning to academia she was senior editor for Latin America at the Economist Intelligence Unit.



Armando Nova is a senior researcher and professor at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana. He earned his doctorate degree in economics at the University of Havana. He has conducted more than 84 research studies on the Cuban economy and has published more than 65 articles in different Cuban and international journals. He is the author of *La agricultura en Cuba : evolución y trayectoria, 1959-2005* (Editorial de Ciencias Sociales, 2006), *Aspectos económicos de los cítricos en Cuba* (Editorial Científico-Técnica, 1988) and a third book as well as co-authored two other volumes.



Presenters

Camila Piñeiro has focused her research on self-generated entrepreneurship, democratic planning, business administration and macroeconomic coordination. She has published articles in books and journals in Cuba, Venezuela, United Kingdom, Canada and the United States such as *Temas*, *Cayapa: Revista de Economía Social Venezolana*, *Science Society*, *Socialism & Democracy*, *Critical Sociology*, *Monthly Review*, among others. Ms. Piñeiro has participated in conferences in Canada and the United States. She is member of the editorial board of *WorkingUSA* (New York). She is currently working on her master's degree on Managerial Processes at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) at the University of Havana where she has been teaching. Her present research project studies the impact of the regulatory framework and promotion of the entrepreneurial system in Cuba on state run corporations. Ms. Piñeiro plans to continue her research on this topic based on case studies in the Cuban food industry as she pursues a doctoral degree.



Saira Pons Perez is a researcher and instructor at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) in the University of Havana. A 2008 graduate of the University of Havana in Economics, she completed a specialization in statistical methods and econometrics in 2010 from the University of Havana and Universidad de la República de Uruguay. Ms. Pons' research interests are foreign direct investment in Cuba, inflation, taxation and human capital.



Lázaro Peña is director of the Research Center on International Economy and executive secretary of the Sugar Chair Álvaro Reynoso at the University of Havana. He graduated with a B.A. in 1978 and a Ph.D. in economics in 1997 from the University of Havana. His research focuses on the Cuban sugar industry and its relationship to the world markets. Dr. Peña has participated in international conferences and congresses in Canada, Mexico, Chile and the United States.

Presenters

Federico Sulroca Dominguez is a faculty member of the Sugar Chair Álvaro Reynoso at the University of Havana, and senior specialist of the Sugar Group AZCUBA. He graduated from the Instituto Superior de Ciencias Agrícolas de La Habana in 1983 and has been a researcher at the Agrotechnical Division of the Ministry of Sugar since 1980. In 2000, Mr. Sulroca obtained an M.A. on cooperative development at FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) in Havana. He has been a guest lecturer at the University of São Paulo and the University of Uruguay. His work focuses on the sugar agroindustry, agriculture economy, cooperatives, agriculture organization systems, design of new technology in agriculture, soil classification, management techniques, and agriculture administration.



Pavel Vidal is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Cali, Colombia. Previously, he was a researcher and professor at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) in the University of Havana (2006-2012). He worked in the Monetary Policy Division of the Central Bank of Cuba for seven years (1999-2006). Dr. Vidal completed his doctorate at the University of Havana in 2007. He has been a visiting professor and researcher at Harvard University, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and the Institute of Developing Economies (Japan External Trade Organization) as well as in several central banks in Latin America.



Forthcoming Publications

The State and the Private Sector in Latin America:

Palgrave, Forthcoming

Mauricio Font

States worldwide are shifting toward collaboration with the private sector, particularly for the provision of large-scale infrastructure projects. This book focuses on the growing reliance on public-private partnerships and concessions to address societal needs. This shift entails new roles for state that were often committed to dirigisme in the recent past. They now need to learn capabilities to manage, design, monitor and implement working relationships with the private sector and civil society. The analysis links these innovations to the reform processes of the latter part of the twentieth-century by providing in-depth accounts of large-scale transportation projects in various countries and regions, with particular attention to Latin America.

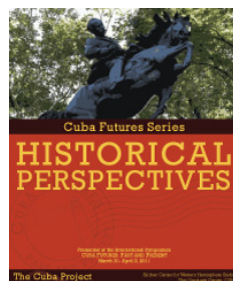
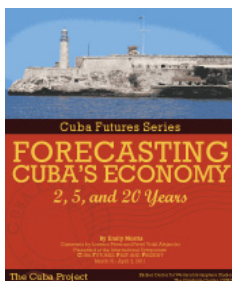
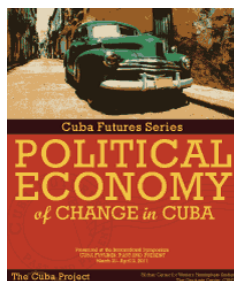
Handbook on Cuban History, Literature, and the Arts Volume II

Paradigm Press, 2014, Forthcoming

Edited by Mauricio Font and Araceli Tinajero

This volume provides an overview of Cuban history, literature, and arts through a collection of essays from the island and abroad.

Past Cuba Project publications



For a complete list of publications visit www.cubaproject.org/publications or www.bildner.org

The 2012 Colloquium on Economic Transformations in Cuba



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About us



BILDNER CENTER

for Western Hemisphere Studies

The Bildner Center brings together scholars, policymakers, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders to further understanding and foster policy-oriented research concerning the governance, security, and economic well-being of peoples in the Americas. Founded in 1982 with the support of businessman and philanthropist Albert Bildner, the Center has been directed by sociologist Mauricio Font since 2000.



The Cuba Project is a collaborative effort to study changes in Cuban politics, economics, culture, and society. It focuses on developments in Cuba in an international context. The Cuba Project works with other academic and policy-oriented programs and institutions to promote dialogue between academics, policymakers, business and media figures, as well as students from various countries and disciplines.

The Cuba Project does not assume a single view about developments relating to Cuba. Rather, the events and publications of the Cuba Project bring together diverse sectors to explore complex realities. It aims to contribute to greater international understanding by promoting informed exchange in a pragmatic and constructive spirit and to advance cooperation in the identification and assessment of models, options, and policies.

Organizers

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and Bildner Center, CUNY

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Very Special Thanks to :

The Graduate Center, the Center for the
Study of the Cuban Economy (UH),
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publications visit**

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