



Colloquium

Economic Transformation in Cuba

May 21, 2012



BILDNER CENTER

for Western Hemisphere Studies



www.CubaProject.org
www.Bildner.org



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.

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

Lin and Albert Bildner Foundation

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The Ford Foundation

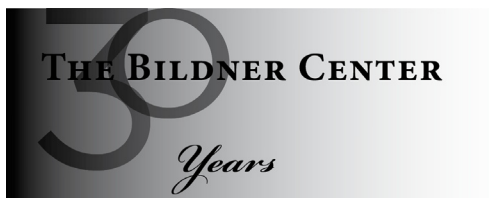
The Rockefeller Brothers Fund

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Celebrating



Cuba Futures Initiative

Economic Transformation in Cuba

Monday, May 21, 2012

8:45AM - 6:00PM

Room 9204/05

The Graduate Center

365 Fifth Avenue (@ 34th Street)

After 2008, the newly installed presidency of Raúl Castro launched several initiatives 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 follow a distinctive and unique approach. The 2012 Cuba Futures Initiative places this new approach in perspective and provides an update on the evolving policies and the structural and institutional changes in progress in 2012. The colloquium closes with a review of policy and research implications.



Program

Session #1: Cuban Updates on “Actualización”

9:05 AM - 11:35 AM, Room 9206/07

Cuentapropismo y ajuste estructural

Omar Everlery, *University of Havana*

Microfinanzas en Cuba

Pavel Vidal, *University of Havana*

Non-state Enterprises in Cuba: Current Situation and Prospects

Camila Piñero, *University of Havana*

Impacto de los lineamientos de la política económica y social en la producción de alimentos

Armando Nova, *University of Havana*

Moderator: **Mauricio Font**, *Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies*

11:35 AM - 11:45 AM -- Coffee break

Session #2: Strategic Initiatives: Agriculture

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM, Room 9206/07

Measuring Cuba's Agricultural Transformations: Preliminary Findings

Mario González-Corzo, *Lehman College, CUNY*

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Cuba - Uncertain Times Ahead

Bill Messina, *University of Florida*

Moderator: **Emily Morris**, *Economist Intelligence Unit in London*

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM -- Lunch

Program

**Session #3: Revamping Socialism:
Perspectives and Prospects**
2:00 PM - 3:55 PM, Room 9206/07

“Actualización” in Perspective
Mauricio Font, *Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies*

Cuban Restructuring: Economic Risks
Emily Morris, *Economist Intelligence Unit in London*

Prospects in a Changing Geo-Economic Environment
Archibald Ritter, *Carleton University, Canada*

Moderator: **TBA**

ROUNDTABLE: Implications and Future Agenda
4:15 - 5:45 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 (with the possible exception of the Session #1). Moreover, the Q&A will be in both English and Spanish.

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



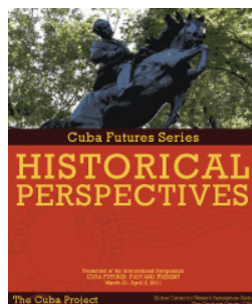
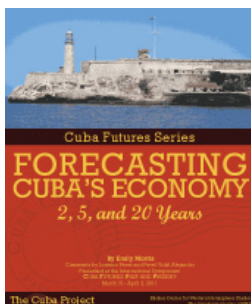
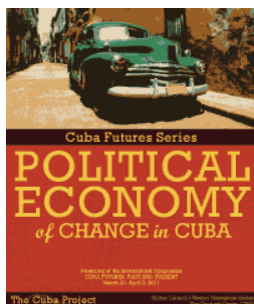
New Publication

Handbook of Contemporary Cuba: Economy, Politics, Civil Society, and Globalization **Paradigm Press, 2012, 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 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 as well as the introduction of each section 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.

The list of Cuba Project publications includes



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

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.) in Business Program. His research interests 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 also works as 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 in the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS) at the University of Miami (FL), where he publishes *Enfoque Económico*.



Presenters

William A. Messina, Jr. is an agricultural economist with the Food and Resource Economics Department in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida. His extension, research and teaching activities focus on agricultural trade and development issues with specific emphasis on U.S.-Caribbean/Latin American trade patterns and policies of particular relevance to Florida agriculture. Mr. Messina is the founding Co-Director of the Department's comprehensive research initiative to provide objective and current data, information and analysis on the agricultural and fisheries sectors in Cuba. In 1999, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman presented Mr. Messina and Cuba project Co-Director Dr. José Alvarez with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Special Honor Award for "outstanding service to U.S. and Florida agriculture for research on the economic challenges and opportunities associated with resumption of trade with Cuba."



Emily Morris is a senior economist/analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit in London. Her specialty is Latin America. She has worked at the EIU for ten years. Previously she was lecturer in development economics at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. At the EIU she is responsible for the coverage of Cuba and Brazil, producing monthly economic forecasts, quarterly Country Reports, Country Risk Service reports and annual Country Profiles. She also maintains EIU's model of the Cuban economy (integrated with its global economic model). She has a Bachelor degree in Economics from the University of Sussex, a Master from Middlesex University, and is working on a Ph.D. dissertation on Cuban economic policy since 1990 in a comparative context.



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 in 1989 and his BA in economics at the University of Havana in 1969. 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.

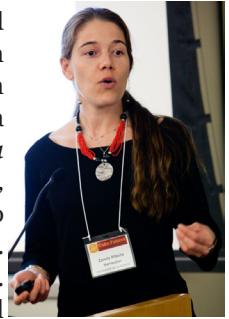


Presenters

Omar Everlery Pérez Villanueva is Professor at the University of Havana and Director, of the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy. Dr. Pérez Villanueva earned his doctorate at the University of Havana, M.A. at CIDE/AC (Mexico), and B.A. at the University of Havana. He has taught and lectured at various universities in Cuba, the U.S., Japan, France, Spain, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Mexico, China and other countries. He has published more than 70 works on the Cuban and international economies. He is co-author of “Cuban Economy at the Start of the Twenty-First Century” (with Jorge Domínguez and L. Barberia); “Reflexiones sobre la economía cubana;” “Miradas a la economía cubana, volumes I and II;” “Cincuenta años de la economía cubana,” “Cuban Economic and Social Development: Policy Reforms and Challenges in the 21st Century.”



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.



Archibald Ritter has published extensively on Cuba's development policies and experience, and has worked in the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Department of Energy Mines and Resources for the Government of Canada. Ritter holds a Ph.D. in Economics with a minor in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.



Presenters

Pavel Vidal earned his PhD. in economics at the University of Havana in 2008. He is currently a researcher at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) at the University of Havana where he teaches macro-economy and econometry of temporal series. Previously, he worked at the Central Bank of Cuba in the Monetary Policy Division. Mr. Vidal has trained at several central banks in Latin America. In 2010 he conducted research at Harvard University and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He has published articles in the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *the International Journal of Cuban Studies*, *the Real Instituto Elcano* (Madrid), *Socialism and Democracy* (New York) and the *Institute of Developing Economies* (Japan).



Images from the 2011 Cuba Futures Conference



About us



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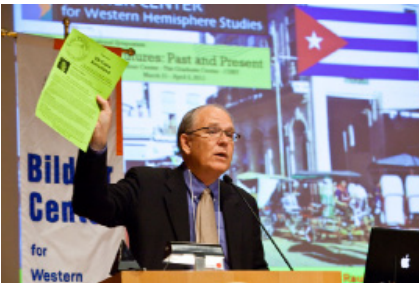
for Western Hemisphere Studies

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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The Graduate Center
and Bildner Center, CUNY

Mario González-Corzo
Lehman College, CUNY

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