



*17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*

***“THE TRANSITION: WHAT TO DO AND WHAT TO AVOID”***

*August 2-4, 2007*

***THE RADISSON MIAMI HOTEL  
1601 Biscayne Boulevard.  
Miami, Florida***

**The Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of Miami co-sponsors the conference and serves as its Secretariat**

Cost: Pre-Registration (Before July 20, 2007)  
\$75 ASCE-Member \$150 Non-Member

On-site registration  
\$100 ASCE-Member \$175 Non-Member

Friday Luncheon: -\$40 \$45 at the door

**Preliminary Program** (Draft-July 26, 2007)  
(final program will be available at the registration)

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY (ASCE)**

**SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING**

**The Radisson Miami Hotel  
1601 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida**

**August 2-4, 2007**

**Thursday, August 2**

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

**(Symphony Foyer I)**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. OPENING PLENARY (Symphony Ballroom I)**

**Opening of Conference: Armando S. Linde, President of ASCE**

**1. Current Economic and Political Situation**

Chair: Armando Linde, IMF

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Oscar Espinosa Chepe, Independent Economist, La Habana

Juan del Aguila, Emory University

**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK (Symphony Foyer I)**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:45 a.m. PLENARY SESSION (Room: Ballroom I)**

**2. Transition Experiences: Conclusions to Draw, Paths to Follow, Pitfalls to Avoid**

Chair: José Ramón de la Torre, Florida International University

Ricardo Lago, “Lessons for Cuba of the Eastern European Transitions”

Rolando H. Castañeda and Geni Gómez, “Hungría, 1989-2006: Una Experiencia de Transición Económica Gradual Exitosa. Lecciones para Cuba”

Armando Linde, IMF, “From Dead Ends and Blind Corners to Open Highways: Traveling Down the Road to Cuban Economic Liberalization”

Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Johns Hopkins University, “Price Liberalization and the End of the Rationing System in Cuba”

Discussants: Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University; Gary Maybarduk; Enrique Pumar, Catholic University

**12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. LUNCH BREAK**

**2:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**3. Infrastructure Reform in Cuba: Lessons Learned from Transition and Developing Countries (Room: Concerto Ballroom D)**

Chair: Oscar Echevarría, Global Expand USA

Teo Babún, “Reforming the Ports”

Juan Belt, USAID, “Reforming the Power, Telecommunications and Water Systems”

Jacob Greenstein and Carlos Penin, “Improving the Highway and Road System”

Discussant: Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland

**4. Labor Issues (Room: Concerto Ballroom C)**

Chair: Joaquín Otero, Otero Global Resources

Jesús Mercader, “Los derechos laborales en Cuba”

Joel Brito, “Estado actual de los Sindicatos Independientes en Cuba y su papel en la transición en Cuba”

Rolando Castañeda y Plinio Montalván, “Actualización y ampliación de los Principios

Arcos y la inversión extranjera en Cuba”

Discussant: Efrén Córdova

**4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. COFFEE BREAK (Symphony Foyer I)**

**4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**5. Agriculture (Room: Concerto Ballroom D)**

Chair: William Messina, University of Florida

Jerry Hagelberg and José Alvarez, University of Florida, “Cuba’s Dysfunctional Agriculture: Challenges Facing the Government”

Carmen Diana Deere, University of Florida, “American Colonists and the Development of the Cuban Citrus Industry, 1899-1930”

John Reeder, U.S. International Trade Commission, “U.S. International Trade Commission Investigation of U.S. Agricultural Sales to Cuba, and the Economic Effects of certain U.S. Restrictions”

Vanessa Harper, University of Florida, “Conducting Agricultural Field Research in Cuba Today”

Discussant: James E. Ross, James E. Ross & Associates; Mary Speck,

WorldPublicOpinion; William Messina, University of Florida

**6. Transition Strategies from the Island: Commentary on *Itinerario de Reflexión Económica para Cuba* (Room: Concerto Ballroom C)**

Chair: Jorge Pérez-López, Fair Labor Association

Presenters: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Gerardo Martínez Solanas, Jorge Sanguinety, Ted Henken, Rolando Castañeda, Joaquín Pujol

**6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. WELCOMING RECEPTION (Lower Pool)**

**Honoree: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh; recipient of the International**



Jorge Luis Romeu, "A Six Sigma Analysis of a Cuban Transition"  
Terry Maris, Ohio Northern University, "Cuba at the Crossroads: Environmental Management in Transition"  
Sonia Hirt and Joseph L. Scarpaci, Virginia Tech, "Suburbanizing Havana and Sofia: Comparisons of Post-socialist Peri-urban Change"  
Discussants: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida; Armando Linde; Ted Henken, Baruch College, CUNY

**11. Análisis Estratégico de un Escenario de Transición: Pacto de Paz y Prosperidad**  
**Panel de Economía Política** ( Room: Concert Ballroom C)

Chair: Alejandro Armengol, El Nuevo Herald  
Carlos Saladrigas, Cuba Study Group, "Investment Funds for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises"  
Mario González-Corzo and Scott Larson, Lehman College, CUNY, "Policies to Attract Remittances in the Dominican Republic: Impact and Lessons for Cuba"  
Geni Gómez, FreddieMac, "Key Strategic Aspects of Cuba's Reinsertion into the Global Economy"  
Rolando Castañeda, "Cuba: How to Achieve High and Sustainable Growth for Employment Generation"  
Discussants: Ricardo Puerta; Dan Erickson, Inter-American Dialogue; Alfie Ulloa, Harvard University

**12. Legal Issues II** ( Room: Picasso )

Chair: Jose Manuel Palli, Esq., Worldwide Title, Inc.  
Aldo Leive, Abadin Cook, "International Commercial Arbitration in Transition-Era Cuba: Outlook and Analysis"  
Pedro A. Freyre, Akerman Senterrfitt, "Restitución de propiedades en Cuba: Consideraciones legales, políticas, y prácticas"  
Avelino González, "The Current Legal System in Cuba"  
Discussant: José Gabilondo, College of Law, FIU

**12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. ASCE LUNCHEON (Concerto: Ballroom B)**

**Announcement of Student Awards**

**Keynote Speaker: Carlos Alberto Montaner, Author and Syndicated Columnist**

**2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**13. Economic Topics** ( Room: Concerto Ballroom D)

Chair: Nicolás Sánchez, College of the Holy Cross  
Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland, "Human Rights and Economic Growth: Implications for a Cuban Transition"  
Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, "Cuban Monetary Reforms and Their Relationship to Policies to Attract and Increase Remittances"  
Antonio E. Morales-Pita, DePaul University, "Possible Scenarios in the Cuban Transition to Market Economy"

José Alvarez, University of Florida, “ASCE’s Contribution to the Study of Cuban Agriculture: Implications for the Transition”  
Discussants: Lorenzo Pérez, IMF; Ed Canler

**14. Student Papers (Room: Concert Ballroom C)**

Chair: Enrique Pumar, Catholic University  
Brenden Carbonell, Yale University (First prize-undergraduate), “FAR from Perfect: The Cuban Military and the Potential for State-Corporatism in Post Communist Cuba”  
Matthew Craig, University of North Carolina (second prize-undergraduate), “Making Sense of Dissidence and Repression in Cuba: A Game Theoretic Analysis”  
Discussants: Ted Henken; José Alvarez

**15. Special Topics (Room: Picasso)**

Chair: Cesar Vidal  
Silvia Nilsen, “Cuba and Illegal Operations: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”  
Pedro Pellet and Antonio Fernández, “Politics and Metaphysics in Cuba: A Socioeconomic Approach”  
Raúl Fernández, “Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente en el Futuro de Cuba”  
Discussants: María Werlau; Jorge Pérez-López; Eudel Cepero

**4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. COFFEE BREAK (Symphony Foyer I)**

**4:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**16. Diaspora Issues (Room: Concerto Ballroom D)**

Chair: Guarioné Díaz, Cuban American National Council, Inc.  
Mario A. González-Corzo, Lehman College, and Scott Larson, City University of New York, “Policies to Attract Remittances in the Dominican Republic: Impact and Lessons for Cuba”  
Jorge Pérez-López, Fair Labor Association, “The Diaspora as a Commercial Network for Cuban Reconstruction”  
Sergio Díaz-Briquets, “Interactions between the Island and the Diaspora”  
Discussant: Ricardo Puerta

**17. Politics and International Relations (Room: Concert Ballroom C)**

Chair: Ambassador Mauricio Solaún, University of Illinois  
Enrique Pumar, Catholic University, “The Politics of Framing”  
José Félix Oletta, “El programa Barrio Adentro y el Financiamiento de la Salud Pública en Venezuela”  
Dan Erikson, InterAmerican Dialogue, “U.S.-Cuba Security Relations”  
Discussant: Juan del Aguila, Emory University

**18. Lessons from the Baltic (Room: Picasso)**

Chair: José Antonio Font, Alliance for Democracy

Viktor Trasberg, Centre for Baltic Studies, Tartu University, “Privatization through Restitution in the Baltic States”

Ints Dzelzgalvis, former IBM Senior Manager, “Issues and Problems with Migration of Communist-run Infrastructures and Societies to a Democratic Market-Oriented Society”

Delaney Skerrett, Tartu University, “The Presence of the Past in the Baltic: Descendants of WWII Refugees’ ‘Return’ to their Latvian and Estonian Homelands”

Tania C. Mastrapa, Mastrapa Consultants, “Investing in the Baltic”

Discussant: Nick Gutierrez, Jr., Esq., Borgognoni & Gutierrez, LLP

**6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.      BUSINESS MEETING ( Room: Ballroom C)**

**President’s Report**

**Secretary’s Report**

**Treasurer’s Report**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4**

**8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.      REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST  
(Symphony Foyer I)**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Room: Symphony Ballroom I)**

**Havana and its Landscapes Project**

Presentation by Architect Professor Nicolas Quintana and a team from FIU School of Architecture. This project’s goal is to create a series of rural, urban, environmental, and architectural guidelines that would protect the city’s character during the transition period, while still addressing the acute shortage of essential services provided by the city.

**Part I**

Nicolás Quintana

Eudel Cepero--Environmental Issues

Juan Antonio Bueno--Ecology

Discussant TBA

**11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.      COFFEE BREAK (Symphony Foyer I)**

**11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      (Room: Symphony Ballroom I)**

**Part II**

Nicolás Quintana

Manuel Cereijo--Infrastructure

Jorge Sanguinety, Dev-Tech, Inc.--Economic Implications

Discussant: Juan Belt, USAID

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