ASCE gratefully acknowledges The Christopher Reynolds Foundation for providing us with generous funding over the past four years to support the conference attendance of Cuban scholars resident on the island adding to the richness, diversity, and fruitful exchange and collaboration between us. We also acknowledge the ongoing secretarial support we receive each year from the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of Miami.

Note: Presentations will be in English unless the title of the session or paper is in Spanish
As the fifteenth president of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy and at the start of our 25th annual conference, “Cuba - What’s Next?” marking our 25th anniversary, I am proud to welcome you to Miami!

Despite ASCE’s long-standing commitment over the last quarter century to rigorously study and analyze “Cuba in Transition” (the name of our annual compendium of conference proceedings) over the last quarter century, the 12 months since our last conference have proven to be filled with unprecedented challenges and exciting new opportunities for the Cuban economy given the momentous decision by the governments of the United States and Cuba to reestablish diplomatic relations, first announced to the world on December 17, 2014, and culminating in the opening of embassies in our respective capitals just 10 days ago!

Given such developments, we believe that the work we do in the Association is more necessary and relevant than ever. Thus, you can count on ASCE (and you its members) to be at the forefront of well reasoned, uniquely informed, and in-depth analysis at this key moment of the island’s history.

Sincerely,

Carlos Seiglie
President, Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

PS: Be sure to follow us on Twitter at @ASCECuba, “friend” us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ascecuba.org, check out our past conference videos on our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/user/ascecuba, and browse past volumes of Cuba in Transition at our newly redesigned website: http://www.ascecuba.org/
### Conference Opening: Current Economic and Political Situation

**Chair:** Carlos Seiglie, ASCE President

- Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University
- Alexis Jardines, Florida International University
- Vegard Bye, University of Oslo, Center for Development and the Environment
- Emilio Morales, The Havana Consulting Group

### Economic Realm of Restoration of Cuba-U.S. Relations

**Chair:** Rafael Romeu, DevTech Systems

- Luis R. Luis, “Economic Consequences of Cuba-US Reconciliation”
- Miriam Celaya González, 14ymedio, “Relaciones Cuba-EE.UU: ¿razones para el optimismo?”
- José Luis Perelló, Universidad de la Habana, “El sector privado y el turismo en Cuba ante un escenario de relaciones con Estados Unidos”

**Discussants:** Ted A. Henken, Baruch College, CUNY; Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired)

### Is Cuba a Threat to U.S. and Hemispheric Security?

**Moderator/Discussant:** Ambassador Otto Reich, Reich & Associates

- José Azel, ICCAS/University of Miami, “Developing business ties with Cuba: practical and security implications” (presented by Daniel Pedreira, Center for a Free Cuba)
- Joseph Humire, Center for a Secure Free Society, “Cuba’s relations with extra-regional actors: geopolitical and security implications”
- Ana Quintana, Heritage Foundation, “Cuba: Continuing security concerns”
- Maria Werlau, Cuba Archive/Free Society Project, “Cuba as safe haven for fugitives: a pending security issue”

**Discussant:** Jaime Suchlicki, ICCAS/University of Miami

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**Registration and Breakfast**

8:00AM - 9:00AM | Concerto Foyer A/B

**Opening Plenary**

9:00AM - 10:45AM | Concerto Ballroom A/B

**Coffee Break**

10:45AM - 11:00AM | Concerto Foyer A/B

**11:00AM - 12:45PM | Concerto Ballroom A**

**11:00AM - 12:45PM | Concerto Ballroom B**

**Lunch Break**

12:45PM - 2:15PM | Concerto Ballroom C
4. Cuban Economic Reforms: Status and Prospects
Chair: Oscar Echevarría, GlobalExpand
Nichole M. Castater, Barry University, “Cuba Through the Looking Glass: A Study of Reform with Mirror Data”
Osmar Laffita Rojas, periodista independiente, “La actualización del modelo económico no es sinónimo de reforma”
Discussants: Gary Maybarduk (Castater); Antonio Gayoso (Messina and Laffita)

2:30PM - 4:15PM | Concerto Ballroom B
5. Las relaciones económicas de Cuba en el contexto hemisférico
Moderador y Comentarista: César Vidal, Escritor, abogado, periodista
Enrique García, consultor en seguridad e inteligencia, “Factores atípicos de las relaciones internacionales económicas de Cuba: el rol de los servicios cubanos de inteligencia”
Beatriz Rangel, AMLA Consulting, “Relaciones Económicas Cuba-Venezuela, realidad y expectativas”
Maria Werlau, Cuba Archive/Free Society Project, “Peculiaridades en la comercialización de productos de salud y biotecnología de Cuba”
Carlos Sánchez Berzain, Interamerican Institute for Democracy, “Relaciones económicas de Cuba-socialismo del siglo 21”

4:15PM - 4:30PM | Concerto Foyer A/B
Coffee Break

4:30PM - 6:00PM | Concerto Ballroom A
6. Cuba’s Emerging Private Economy
Chair: Ramón Barquín III, Barquín Group
Carlos Fernández-Aballí, Cuban Entrepreneur and President of Cooperativa Industrias Purita, “New Entrepreneurship in Cuba: The Non Agricultural Cooperative “Industrias Purita” Case Study”
Rolando Sánchez, University of the Incarnate Word, “Assessing the Need for Entrepreneurial Education to Promote Sustainable Development in Cuba”
Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, CUNY, “Entrepreneurial Wealth Creation in Post-Socialist Economies: Relevant Experiences and Lessons for Cuba”
Roberto González Peralo, Universidad de Matanzas, “La heterogeneidad de los sujetos económicos en la comercialización de productos agropecuarios: Impacto en el funcionamiento del mercado cubano”
Discussants: Arch Ritter, Carleton University; Christopher Baker, World Council of Credit Unions.

4:30PM - 6:00PM | Concerto Ballroom B
7. Considerations about the Cuban Revolution
Chair: Michael J. Strauss, Centre d’Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques, Paris
Enrique Pumar, Catholic University of America, “When Reforms Are Not: A Critical View of Current Developments in Cuba”
Luis Martínez Fernández, University of Central Florida,”Seven Threads in the Labyrinth of the Cuban Revolution”
Jorge Sanguinetty, DevTech Systems, “La economía política del embargo o bloqueo interno”
Discussants: Jorge Duany, Florida International University; Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University

6:15PM - 9:00PM | Concerto Ballroom C
ASCE WELCOMING RECEPTION
Speakers: Miriam Leiva, independent journalist
Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, global business correspondent, CNBC (invited)
8:00AM - 8:30AM | Concerto Foyer A/B

Registration and Breakfast

8:30AM - 10:15PM | Concerto Ballroom A

8. Legal Framework for U.S.-Cuba Foreign Trade and Investment

Chair: Jorge Esquirol

José Gabilondo, Florida International University, “Establishing Ground Rules for Political Risk Claims about Cuba”
Rolando Anillo, “US-Cuba BIT: A Guarantee in Reestablishing Trade Relations”

Discussants: Antonio Zamora (Gabilondo, Anillo); Jose Manuel Pallí (Travieso-Díaz, Freyre)

9. Comparison of Cuba and North Korea in Transition

Panel sponsored by the Korea Institute for National Unification, KINU

Chair: Dr. Jinwook Choi, President of KINU

Jung-Chul Lee, Soongsil University, Korea, “A Lesson from Cuba’s Party-Military Relations and a Tale of “Two Fronts Line” in North Korea”
Young-Ja Park, KINU, “Hybrid Economy in Cuba and North Korea”
Wootae Lee, KINU, “Historical Progress of the U.S.-Cuba Relationship: Implication for the U.S.-North Korea Case”
Discussants: Kyunghwa Lee, Songsil University (Wootae Lee); Larry Catá-Backer, Pennsylvania State University (Jung-Chul Lee); Suk-hoon Hung, KINU (Young-Ja Lee)

10:15AM - 10:30AM | Concerto Foyer A/B

Coffee Break

10:30AM - 12:15PM | Concerto Ballroom A

10. Economic Topics

Chair: Jorge Perez-Lopez, U.S. Department of Labor (retired)

Archibald R. M. Ritter, Carleton University, “Alternative Institutional Futures for Cuba’s Mixed Economy”
Domingo Amuchástegui, Cuba Standard, “Foreign Investment in Cuba: Reliable Partners, Not Carpetbaggers”
Discussants: Paul Meo, World Bank (retired); Nick Sánchez, College of the Holy Cross (retired)

11. La política en Cuba: cambios, reflexiones e impactos

Moderador: Armando Chaguaceda, Universidad de Guanajuato, México

Armando Chaguaceda, Universidad de Guanajuato, México, y Lázaro J. González, Universidad Iberoamericana, México, “Las ciencias políticas en Cuba: apuntes sobre su estado actual e incidencia pública”
Aimel Ríos Wong, National Endowment for Democracy, “Cuba 2018: escenarios de reforma política”
María Isabel Puerta, Universidad de Carabobo, Venezuela, “Cuba y Venezuela: entre la transición democrática y la deriva autoritaria”
Guennady Rodríguez, Somos +, “Creatividad para la política”
Commenter: Ted Henken, Baruch College, CUNY

12:30PM - 2:30PM | Concerto Ballroom C

ASCE LUNCHEON

Speaker: Mark Wells, State Department Coordinator for Cuban Affairs (remarks off the record)
12. International Economic Topics
Chair: Helena Solo-Gabriele, University of Miami
Jorge Piñón, University of Texas at Austin, “Cuba’s Petroleum Conundrum: Its Dependency on Imported Oil”
Discussants: Bryan Roberts, Econometrica; Luis R. Luis

13. Student Papers
Chair: Enrique Pumar, The Catholic University of America
Lisa Clarke, University of South Florida, “Luchas y éxitos en las diásporas cubanas”
Kara Sheppard-Jones, Yale University, “Cuban Socialism in Transition: Micro-entrepreneurship and the solidarity economy”
Antonio L. Díaz, University of Florida, “A Realistic Approach to Utilizing Cuba’s Current Telecommunications Infrastructure to Provide Readily Available Communications Accessibility to the Population”
Discussants: Enrique Pumar, Catholic University of America

15. Panel Discussion: Cuba 2.0: Applications, Implications, and Internet Technology in a Changing Cuba
Organizers: Larry Press, California State University, Domínguez Hills and Ted A. Henken, Baruch College, CUNY
Focus: Despite being one of the least connected countries in the Western Hemisphere, in recent years Cuba has witnessed a veritable revolution in the creative use of a variety of new digital technologies to access, produce, share, distribute, archive, and commercialize digital data. Given recent Cuban government declarations about its intention to expand access to the Internet together with President Obama’s new policy that explicitly allows U.S. telecom and Internet companies to more easily provide communications equipment and services to Cubans, this panel convenes a group of analysts who will jointly discuss the emerging opportunities and continued challenges in the world of “Cuba 2.0.”
Panelists: Ted A. Henken; Larry Press; Jesús Martínez, Communications Director, Cuban Ministry of Transportation; Óscar Visiedo, Albizu University and Former Director of CEINAI; Carlos Alberto Pérez, Blogger, La Chiringa de Cuba and Administrator, La Joven Club de Computación; Ellery Biddle, Global Voices.
16. Demography & Environmental Issues
Chair: Stephen Kimmerling

Bryan W. Roberts, Econometrica, “Demographic Change in Post-Communist Countries: Theoretical and Empirical Analysis and Implications for Cuba”
Dana J. Graef, Brown University, “The Characteristics and Future Prospects of Cuban Environmentalism”
Mauricio Font, City University of New York, “Patterns of Spatial Differences in Cuba”
Discussant: Luis Locay, University of Miami; René Costales, Inter-American Development Bank (retired)

17. Special Topics
Chair: Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, CUNY

Juan Tomás Sánchez, “Los Once Millones de Abajo, o la Reforma del Estado”
Reinaldo Cosano Alén, periodista independiente, Agencia Sindical Press, “Cuentapropismo y economía de bonsái”
Discussant: Joisy García Martínez, Club Anarcocapitalista de Cuba; Miriam Leiva, independent journalist

18. El trabajo de Cuba con el mundo académico y la intelectualidad en Estados Unidos
Moderador y Comentarista: Carlos Alberto Montaner, autor y periodista.

Orlando Brito, ex-oficial del MININT, “Los servicios de inteligencia cubana y el sector académico en Estados Unidos”
Julio Shiling, politólogo, Patria de Martí, “La influencia de Cuba en la academia estadounidense”
Rodolfo Stusser, M.D., Médico, investigador y ex-profesor universitario, “El intercambio académico Cuba- Estados Unidos: una experiencia personal”

19. Cultural Issues
Chair: Ilan Ehrlich, Bergen Community College

Soren Triff, “Internet portraits of Cuban progressive intellectuals and the emerging cultural industry”
Yvon Grenier, “Free or not Free? The Small Heresies of Leonardo Padura”
Rosendo Romero, “Cuba y la economía de la cultura: Problemáticas y perspectivas”
Discussants: Orlando Luis Pardo, Brown University; Enrique Pumar, Catholic University of America
ASCE Mission Statement
The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) is a non-profit, non-political organization incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1990.

Our mission is to promote research, publications, and scholarly discussion on the Cuban economy in its broadest sense, including on the social, economic, legal, and environmental aspects of a transition to a free market economy and a democratic society in Cuba. ASCE is committed to a civil discussion of all points of view.

Affiliated with the American Economic Association and the Allied Social Sciences Association of the United States, ASCE maintains professional contacts with economists inside Cuba—whether independent or associated with the Cuban government—who are interested in engaging in scholarly discussion and research.

ASCE Board of Directors
A Board of Directors, elected by the membership for a two-year period, meets monthly. Its officers, who reside in different cities of the United States, serve in a pro-bono, voluntary capacity. Since ASCE’s inception, Board positions have been occupied by individuals from academia, government service, law firms, multilateral organizations and business enterprises.

The ASCE Board of Directors is elected by its members for a two-year period. Board members, who reside in different U.S. cities, serve pro-bono.

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Following the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam in 1995, the Foundation began to look at the parallels between the former embargo on Vietnam and current U.S. policy towards Cuba. It began to support work to strengthen contacts and understanding between citizens and Institutions in the U.S. and citizens and institutions in Cuba. This includes programs intended to complement the work of Cubans as they determine their future path in a variety of fields. The Foundation also supports programs intended to examine current U.S. policy toward Cuba and whether it best serves U.S. national interest.