



Spring 2013

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ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

PO Box 28267
Washington, DC
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Dear ASCE member:

April 10, 2013

I am proud to report that ASCE has been extremely engaged during the late winter and early spring in a number of exciting projects, the most dramatic and rewarding of which has been our co-sponsorship of the US visits of Cuban bloggers and cyber-activists Yoani Sánchez and Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo. ASCE recognizes the generous financial assistance of the Cuba Study Group in allowing us to act as hosts and co-sponsors of these historic visits.

While Sánchez was able participate in our annual conference last August via telephone from Havana, she made her first trip to the United States in March.



ASCE was front-and-center as a co-sponsor of "The Revolution Recodified: Social Media and the Public Sphere in Cuba," a three-day symposium held at New York University and the New School in Manhattan from March 15-17. ASCE also co-sponsored a second event, "Cuba and the Digital Revolution" (see photo), that also featured Sánchez and Pardo Lazo on March 20 at Georgetown University with the help of Eusebio Mujal-León, Georgetown's Department of Government, and a number of student groups whom we hope to tap into as future ASCE members! The Georgetown event was followed by a reception for Sánchez and Pardo Lazo hosted by ASCE member Roger Betancourt.

ASCE board member María Werlau also organized a visit for Sánchez to the United Nations on March 21, where she spoke to a gathering of international journalists all members of the United Nations Correspondents' Association. A number of ASCE members were also present at the various public events held with Sánchez upon her historic visit to Miami between April 1-4. Indeed, I worked with the dynamic group of young people who make up *Raíces de Esperanza* (Roots of Hope) pull off the hour-long "Tweet-Up" held on April 3 at downtown Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

In other news related to social media, ASCE has decided to launch its very own blog, a project headed up by Luis Luis and Ernesto Hernández-Catá. The blog is hosted on our ASCE website and features economic analysis by a revolving cadre of ASCE members. Be sure to visit and leave your comments at <http://www.ascecuba.com/blog>.

Preparations are well underway for ASCE's annual conference, this year's title is "[Reforming Cuba?](http://www.ascecuba.org/conference/info/)" (<http://www.ascecuba.org/conference/info/>). As usual, the conference will take place at the Hilton Miami Downtown from August 1-3. Follow the hyperlink above for registration information. We have applied for financial support from both the Christopher Reynolds Foundation and the Cuban Study Group in order to host a number of scholars from the island, including Juan Triana, Armando Nova, Karina Gálvez, and Laritza Diversent.

ASCE is also happy to report that Oscar Espinosa Chepe, one of our closest collaborators and colleagues on the island, has been released from the hospital in Madrid, where he and his wife Miriam Leiva had traveled recently for medical attention. He will remain in the city for the coming months as his health improves and ASCE is creating a special fund to help defray the costs of housing during his recovery. You can write to asce@ascecuba.org if you would like to contribute to that fund.

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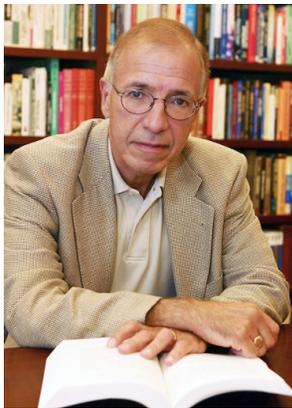
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Finally, Princeton University scholar Alejandro Portes will deliver ASCE's prestigious Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture in New York City on Monday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the New School University. This year's lecture promises to be particularly timely given recent changes to Cuba's migration legislation, the rising electoral importance of Latinos in the United States, and demographic changes in the Cuban-American community, all subjects which Portes has addressed before. See below for more information on his lecture and on how to register.

Latin American Institutions and Development:



A Comparative Analysis by [Alejandro Portes](#) Princeton University

Monday, May 6, 2013
6:00–7:30 p.m.

The New School
Arnhold Hall
Theresa Lang Community & Student Center
[55 West 13th Street, 2nd Floor](#)
[New York, NY](#)

Admission is free, but space is limited. [Click here to register.](#)
<http://alejandroportes.eventbrite.com/>

If this were not enough, George J. Borjas, the distinguished Cuban-American economist and Robert W. Scrivner Professor of Economics and Social Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our annual conference in August, 2013. Borjas' work on labor economics, as well as on the economic impact of immigration, promise to provoke an enlightening discussion among conference attendees.

ASCE has also recently undertaken an effort, headed by board member María Werlau, to increase our membership. This continuing effort seeks to reconnect with former members who have lost touch with ASCE over recent years, as well as encourage new members to join. We look forward to seeing our membership at the Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture, on May 6, 2013.

Finally, remember to get your abstracts to asce@ascecuba.org by 30 April 2013 (with "ASCE Conference" in the subject line) for inclusion in the program for this year's conference, and to get your student papers to PUMAR@cua.edu for consideration in the student prize.

Sincerely,
Ted A. Henken
President, Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy