

July 28-30, 2016

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting

Cuba:
Assessing the Reforms

ASCE 2016



Cuba: Assessing the Reforms

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE)
Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting
July 28-30, 2016

The Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel
1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33132



ASCE gratefully acknowledges The Christopher Reynolds Foundation for providing us with generous funding over the past five years to support the conference attendance of Cuban scholars resident on the island adding to the richness, diversity, and fruitful exchange and collaboration among us. We also acknowledge the ongoing secretarial support we receive each year from María Urizar of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of Miami and Carlos Bustamante of MaestroMeetings for his assistance in designing the conference badges, poster, and program.



Note: Presentations will be in English unless the title of the session or paper is in Spanish.



WELCOME TO ASCE 2016!



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who has traveled here from Coral Gables and Calle Ocho, from places further afield like New York, Washington, D.C., California, Paris, and Madrid, and from what sometimes seem like places even further away like Havana, Cienfuegos, Pinar del Río, and Matanzas to attend the 26th annual meeting of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy: "**Cuba: Assessing the Reforms.**" At a time of historic opportunities and acute challenges for the Cuban economy and Cuban-U.S. relations, ASCE is more committed than ever to playing a positive, constructive role in critically evaluating the changes impacting the lives of Cuba's 11 million citizens.

We are very committed to and proud of the presence at the conference this year of a record number of participants –more than 25 in total– who have joined us directly from Cuba allowing us to bridge the intellectual distance between Miami and Havana, building bonds of frank, respectful, and informed debate, dialogue, and collaboration.

Among the many attendees from Cuba this year, I'd like to highlight to the presence for the first time of a number of scholars whom have made their careers within state institutions, including Omar Everlency Pérez , Eduardo López Bastida, Lázaro Blanco, Yailenis Mulet, and Yociel Marrero. We also extend a warm welcome to younger scholars whom we hope will be the new blood that keeps ASCE vital and relevant in the years to come, including Jorge Ignacio Guillén, Karina Gálvez, Yoandy Izquierdo Toledo, Osmany Sánchez, Roberto G. Peralo, and our two student prize awardees this year: Aleida Cobas Valdés and Nayara Sabrina de Freitas Alves.

All this is a happy and necessary addition to the even larger number of participants we welcome this year from numerous organizations of Cuba's emergent independent civil society, including *Centro de Estudios Convivencia*, *Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo*, *Corriente Agramontista*, *Comité Ciudadano por la Integración Racial*, CubaNet, and *La Comisión Coordinadora del Encuentro Nacional Cubano*.

In closing, I'd like to extend a special welcome to our keynote speaker the eminent Spanish journalist Vicente Luis Botín and his wife María Soledad Vallejo. I'd also like to note the presence of the pioneering Cuban *cuentapropistas* Gilberto "Papito" Valladares, Camilo Condis Mojena, Ramón Bedias, Celia Mendoza, and Robin Pedraja.

Sincerely,

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

PS: Be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@ASCECuba](https://twitter.com/ASCECuba). While you're at it "friend" us on Facebook, check out our past conference videos on YouTube, and browse past volumes of *Cuba in Transition* on our website: <http://www.ascecuba.org/>.



Concerto Foyer A

8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Concerto Ballroom A/B

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. OPENING PLENARY

1) Current Economic and Political Situation

Chair: **Carlos Seiglie**, ASCE President, Rutgers University

Joaquín P. Pujol, International Monetary Fund (retired), "Cuba: Great Expectations, but How Real Are They?"

Omar Everlery Pérez Villanueva, Cuban Economist, *Temas Magazine*, "Cuba: Economía y Desafíos"

Jorge R. Piñón, Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Texas at Austin, "Cuba's Energy Crisis: Truth or Fiction?"

Concerto Foyer A

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

Concerto Ballroom A/B

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

2) Macroeconomic Topics

Chair: **Carlos Quijano**, World Bank (retired)

Roberto Orro Fernández, Caribbean Analysis Unit, "Cuban Monetary Unification: Zeroing in on Why There Has Been Zero Day Zero in Cuba"

Heidi Colby-Oizumi, U.S. International Trade Commission, "Overview of Cuban Imports of Goods and Services and Effects of U.S. Restrictions"

Pavel Vidal Alejandro, Universidad Javeriana (Cali, Colombia), and **Ernesto Hernández-Catá**, IMF (retired) and The Foundry, Inc., "The Rise and Fall of Economic Growth in Cuba, 2015-16: External Factors, Business Confidence, and Domestic Policies"

Discussants: **Lorenzo Pérez**, International Monetary Fund (retired); **Gary Maybarduk**, U.S. Department of State (retired)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK



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

Concerto Ballroom A

3) Agriculture

Chair: **Felipe Manteiga**, U.S. Agency for International Development (retired)

Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, The City University of New York, "Urban Agriculture in Cuba: An Update"

Jorge Pérez-López, U.S. Department of Labor (retired), "The Restructuring of the Cuban Sugar Agroindustry: A Progress Report"

Roberto G. Peralo, Universidad de Matanzas, "Estudio del funcionamiento de los mercados agrícolas cubanos"

Discussants: **José F. Alonso**, Adjunct Professor, Montgomery College Adult Education; **Antonio Gayoso**, U.S. Agency for International Development (retired)

Concerto Ballroom B

4) Legal Issues

Chair: **Stephen Kimmerling, Esq.**

Dagoberto Valdés, Centro de Estudios Convivencia (CEC), "Un nuevo marco jurídico y tránsito constitucional en Cuba"

José Gabilondo, Florida International University College of Law, "Fundamentando las Reclamaciones de Cuba contra los EEUU: La Expropiación De Facto de la Propiedad Estatal de los Cubanos"

Michael J. Strauss, Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (Paris, France), "Returning Guantanamo Bay to Cuban Control"

Discussants: **Rolando Anillo, Esq.**; **Luis Carlos Battista**, Georgetown Law School; **Larry Catá Backer**, Penn State University

Concerto Foyer A

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. COFFEE BREAK



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

Concerto Ballroom A

5) La justicia transicional y la anhelada reconciliación nacional cubana

Presidente: **Julio M. Shiling**, politólogo, escritor y director del foro *Patria de Martí*

Fredo Arias King, director de Casla Institute y experto en países del ex bloque soviético, "Lecciones de justicia transicional de países del antiguo bloque comunista soviético"

Enrique García, ex oficial de la inteligencia cubana, "Transformando el aparato de seguridad cubano: retos y realidades"

Pastor Mario Félix Leonart, pastor bautista, miembro de la Comisión Coordinadora del Encuentro Nacional Cubano y bloguero, "La anhelada reconciliación nacional: retos, realidades y esperanzas"

Maria C. Werlau, Directora Ejecutiva de Cuba Archive / Archivo Cuba, Proyecto de Verdad y Memoria, "La justicia transicional en un contexto universal: aprendizaje para Cuba"

Comentaristas: **Vicente Botín**, periodista y autor español; **Nilda Pedraza**, madre de joven asesinado en 1994 por Tropas Guardafronteras de Cuba

Concerto Ballroom B

6) Cuba's Infrastructure in Support of Economic Development

Chair: **René Costales**, Inter-American Development Bank (retired)

Josef Asteinza, Producer and Writer of the documentary film "Havana Modern: The Architecture of Nicolás Quintana"; and **Vivian García**, University of Miami, "Mapping Cuba's 20th Century Architecture"

Diana Arboleda, **Francisco DeCaso** and **Antonio Nanni**, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, University of Miami, "Historic Infrastructure Rehabilitation with Fabric Reinforced Cementitious Matrix (FRCM) Composites"

Enrique S. Pumar, The Catholic University of America; **Helena M. Solo-Gabriele**, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, University of Miami; **Joseph B. Treaster**, School of Communications, University of Miami, "Perceptions of Water Quality in Cuba as Reported by Users: Preliminary Findings of the Cuban Water Project"

Wangda Zuo, College of Engineering, University of Miami; **Raymond Kaiser**, Amzur Technologies; and **Stephen Welty**, Calor Technologies, "Envisioning a 21st Century Renewable, Reliable, Resilient, and Affordable Energy Infrastructure for Cuba"

Overture Foyer 1

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **ASCE WELCOMING RECEPTION**



Concerto Foyer A

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

7) Cuba's Self-Imposed Embargo

Chair: **Oscar Echevarría**, Global Expand LLC

Emilio Morales, The Havana Consulting Group, "Gobierno cubano, ¿congela o descongela los límites del sector privado en la era del deshielo?"

Jorge A. Sanguinety, DevTech Systems, "Implications of Cuba's Foreign Investment Law in the Context of 2016" (to be delivered by Juan Antonio Blanco)

Juan Antonio Blanco, Historiador (Ph.D.) y Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación de Derechos Humanos para Cuba, "Tres mitos referidos al embargo"

Discussants: **Carlos Seiglie**, Rutgers University; **René Gómez Manzano**, Presidente de la Corriente Agramontista

Concerto Ballroom B

8) Student Panel

Chair: **Enrique S. Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Aleida Cobas Valdés, Department of Applied Economics and Institute of Public Economics, University of Basque Country, Spain, "Cuban Immigrants in the United States: What Determines their Earning Distributions?"

Nayara Sabrina de Freitas Alves, Department of Biology, University of Miami and Universidade do Estado do Para, Brazil, "Havana's Wastewater Treatment Plans: Changes over Time and Estimate Replacement Cost"

Discussants: **Mario González-Corzo**, Lehman College; **Enrique S. Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Concerto Foyer A

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. COFFEE BREAK



10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

9) Demography

Chair: **Nick Sánchez**, College of the Holy Cross (retired)

Luis Locay, University of Miami, "Why Did the Cuban Infant Mortality Rate Rise during the First Decade of the Revolution?"

Sergio Díaz-Briquets, "Population Aging in Cuba: Policy Options from a Global Perspective"

Emilio Morales, The Havana Consulting Group, "La demografía de las remesas a Cuba"

Discussants: **Rodolfo Stusser, MD**

Concerto Ballroom B

10) Cuban Economic Reforms and Party Congresses

Chair: **Rogelio de la Torre**, De la Torre International

Osmar Laffita Rojas, Partido Solidaridad Democrática and CubaNet, "Los problemas de la economía no resueltos por el VI Congreso"

Larry Catá Backer, Penn State University, "Central Planning Versus Markets Marxism: The Cuban Communist Party Confronts Crisis, Challenge and Change in its 7th Congress"

Domingo Amuchástegui, columnist for *Cuba Standard* and *Temas*, "A Nation's Debate: What to Expect"

Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired), "Cuba's Seventh Party Congress: Listening Carefully to Raúl"

Discussants: **Jorge Pérez-López**, U.S. Department of Labor, retired; **Hildebrando Chaviano Montes**, Corriente Agramontista

Concerto Ballroom C

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. ASCE OFFICIAL LUNCHEON

ASCE Student Awards, Enrique Pumar, Catholic University of America

Graduate Student Award: Aleida Cobas Valdés, Department of Applied Economics and Institute of Public Economics, University of Basque Country, Spain

Undergraduate Student Award: Nayara Sabrina de Freitas Alves, Department of Biology, University of Miami and Universidade do Estado do Pará, Brazil

Ernesto Betancourt Keynote Address: Vicente Botín, Spanish journalist, author of two books on Cuba, and TV Española correspondent, "Las cuentas y los cuentos de las reformas"



2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Concerto Ballroom A

11) Impacts of Structural Economic Reforms

Chair: **Lorenzo Pérez**, International Monetary Fund (retired)

José Gabilondo, Florida International University College of Law, "Assessing Cuba's Monetary Reforms: What Will Happen to State Balance Sheets?"

Ernesto Hernández-Catá, International Monetary Fund (retired) and The Foundry, Inc., "Growth and Policy-Induced Distortions in the Cuban Economy"

Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland, "USA-Cuba Migration Policy: A Political Economy View"

Discussants: **Carlos Seiglie**, Rutgers University; **Jorge Sanguinety**, DevTech Systems

Concerto Ballroom B

12) International Relations

Chair: **Oscar Echevarría**, Global Expand, LLC

Carlos A. Romero, Universidad Central de Venezuela, "Business as Usual: Venezuelan-Cuban Relations Today"

Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, "The Impossible Triangle: Cuba, the US, and Miami and the Re-establishment of Relations"

Jorge Hernández Fonseca, Dr. Ing., "Cuba, Brasil y el puerto de Mariel"

Miriam Leiva, Independent Journalist, *Reconciliación Cubana*, "Cuba: Movimiento o Caos"

Discussants: **Rafael Romeu**, DevTech Systems; **Maria Werlau**, Cuba Archive

Concerto Foyer A

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK**



4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

13) Tourism and Self-Employment

Chair: **María Dolores Espino**, St. Thomas University

Rafael Romeu, DevTech Systems and **Trevor Alleyne** and **Sebastián Acevedo**, International Monetary Fund, "The Vacation is Over, 2016"

José Perelló, Universidad de La Habana, "Tourism Development in Cuba: Trends, Policies, and Relevant Issues Impacting the Future" (to be delivered by María Dolores Espino)

Yailenis Mulet Concepción, Universidad de La Habana, "El trabajo por cuenta propia después de las reformas de Raúl Castro: Un balance"

Discussants: **Julio Cerviño Fernández**, Universidad Carlos III (Spain); **María Dolores Espino**, St. Thomas University

Concerto Ballroom B

14) Private Sector

Chair: **Ramón Carlos Barquín**, Barquín International

Omar Everlery Pérez Villanueva, Cuban Economist, *Temas* Magazine and **Janettee María García Cobas**, Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo, "El desarrollo de las pequeñas y medianas empresas en Cuba: Una necesidad impostergable"

Gilberto "Papito" Valladares and **Camilo Condis Mojena**, cuentapropistas, "El Proyecto Artecorte: Un proyecto comunitario de desarrollo local en la Cuba actual"

Ramón Bedías, cuentapropista, "El Patio de Ramoncito"

Discussants: Ted A. Henken, Baruch College; **Yociel Marrero**, Antonio Núñez Jiménez Centro para la Naturaleza y el Hombre

Concerto Ballroom C

6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. ASCE BUSINESS MEETING

Review of activities of the 2014-2016 period

Investiture of the incoming Board of Directors, 2016-2018

Incoming Officers: Helena Solo-Gabriele, President; Carlos Seiglie, President, Ex-Officio; and Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Treasurer

Incoming Board Members: Larry Catá Backer; Sergio Díaz-Briquets; Antonio Gayoso; Steven J. Kimmerling; Gary Maybarduk; Roberto Orro Fernández; Jorge Luis Romeu; Rafael Romeu; Michael J. Strauss; and Rogelio de la Torre Casanova



Concerto Foyer A

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

15) Authors Meet Critics

Chair: **Enrique Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Authors: **Archibald R.M. Ritter**, Carleton University and **Ted A. Henken**, Baruch College, The City University of New York, *Entrepreneurial Cuba: The Changing Policy Landscape*

Critic: **Sergio Díaz-Briquets**

Author: **Silvia Pedraza**, University of Michigan, *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus*

Critic: **Enrique Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Authors: **Carmelo Mesa-Lago** and **Jorge Pérez-López**, *Cuba Under Raúl Castro: Assessing the Reforms*

Critic: **Mario González-Corzo**, Lehman College, The City University of New York

Concerto Ballroom B

16) Historical and Cultural Perspectives

Chair: **Roger Betancourt**, University of Maryland

Luis Martínez-Fernández, University of Central Florida, "Centuries-Deep Roots: Early Colonial Foundations of Twentieth-Century Cuban Society and Culture"

Yvon Grenier, St. Francis Xavier University, "*Temas* and Anathemas: Depoliticization and Newspeak in Cuba's Social Sciences and Humanities"

Soren Triff, Bristol Community College, "The Other Racism: The Role of the Revolutionary Discourse in Cuban Identity Economics"

Discussants: **René Costales**, Inter-American Development Bank (retired)

Concerto Foyer A

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK



11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

17) Development Strategies and Geography

Chair: **Luis Locay**, University of Miami

Eduardo López Bastida, Universidad de Cienfuegos, "Algunas consideraciones sobre ciencia, tecnología, innovación tecnológica y medio ambiente para desarrollo próspero y sostenible cubano"

Dagoberto Valdés, Centro de Estudios Convivencia (CEC), "Propuestas para reformas de la economía cubana"

Mauricio Font, City University of New York, "Spatial Differentiation: Oriente v. Occidente"

Osmany Sánchez, Universidad de Matanzas, "Paisajes y economía ecológica: bases geográficas para la gestión costera integrada en la provincia de Matanzas"

Discussants: **Antonio Gayoso**, U.S. Agency for International Development (retired); **Juan Antonio Madrazo Luna**, Comité Ciudadano por la Integración Racial (CIR)

Concerto Ballroom B

18) Cuba and the Internet

Chair: **Ted A. Henken**, Baruch College

Salvi Pascual, cuentapropista, Apretaste.com, "Using the current tech and infrastructure to connect Cuba to the Web"

Lázaro J. Blanco Encinosa, Centro de Estudios de Técnicas de Dirección, Universidad de La Habana, "Internet y las tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones en el sector empresarial cubano. Actualidad, perspectivas y retos"

Celia Mendoza and **Robin Pedraja**, cuentapropistas, *Vistar Magazine*, "Alternativas entre la conexión y la desconexión"

Discussants: **Yoaxis Marcheco**, Licenciada en Ciencias de la Información y Máster en Estudios Teológicos, Coordinadora del Instituto Patmos (invited); **Harold Cárdenas**, Universidad de Matanzas y co-fundador del blog *La Joven Cuba* (invited)

Note: Throughout the conference there will be a Press Room for interviews in the Soprano Room



ABOUT ASCE

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 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.

Current Board of Directors, 2014–2016

Officers: Carlos Seiglie, President; Ted A. Henken, President, Ex-Officio; Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Treasurer; and Helena Solo-Gabriele, Secretary

Other Board members: Ramón Barquín III, Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Mario González-Corzo, Steven J. Kimmerling, Gary Maybarduk, Archibald R. M. Ritter, Rafael Romeu, and María Werlau

Incoming Board of Directors, 2016-2018

Officers: Helena Solo-Gabriele, President; Carlos Seiglie, President, Ex-Officio; and Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Treasurer

Other Board members: Larry Catá Backer, Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Antonio Gayoso, Steven J. Kimmerling, Gary Maybarduk, Roberto Orro Fernández, Jorge Luis Romeu, Rafael Romeu, Michael J. Strauss, Rogelio de la Torre Casanova



Main Committee Chairs

- **Annual Conference Program:** Jorge Pérez-López and Ted A. Henken
- **Conference Organization and Logistics:** Mario González-Corzo and Joaquín Pujol
- **Conference Secretariat:** María Urizar of ICCAS
- **Student Prize Competition:** Enrique Pumar
- **Editor of “Cuba in Transition,” conference proceedings:** Jorge Pérez-López
- **Travel Fundraising and Logistics:** Ted A. Henken, María Werlau, and Archibald Ritter
- **American Economic Association ASCE Coordinator:** Luis Locay
- **Carlos Alejandro Lecture Coordinator:** Lorenzo Pérez and Carlos Seiglie
- **Media and News Clippings Service:** Joaquín P. Pujol
- **ASCE Webpage and Newsletter:** Carlos Seiglie, Ernesto Hernández-Catá, and Ted A. Henken
- **ASCE Blog:** Luis R. Luis and Ernesto Hernández-Catá
- **Membership Committee:** Ramón Barquín III and María Werlau
- **Elections, Nominating, and Tellers Committee:** Roger Betancourt and Steven Escobar

ASCE Past Presidents

- Felipe Pazos †
- Roger Betancourt
- Jorge F. Pérez-López
- Armando M. Lago †
 - Antonio Gayoso
 - Lorenzo Pérez
- Sergio Díaz-Briquets
 - Carlos N. Quijano
 - Beatriz C. Casals
- Ernesto Hernández-Catá
 - Armando S. Linde
- Jorge A. Sanguinety
 - Rafael Romeu
 - Ted A. Henken
 - Carlos Seiglie

