

Focus on Cuba



Globalization & Entrepreneurship in Cuba's New Economy

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Brown University

Watson Institute
111 Thayer Street
Providence, RI

Yailenis Mulet and Betsy Anaya of the Universidad de la Habana's Center for Research on the Cuban Economy (CEEC) will offer presentations based on their research at CLACS on October 30, 2012.

Mulet holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Universidad de la Habana and is the author of many articles on economic restructuring, entrepreneurship and business in Cuba. The title of her talk is "*El emprendimiento empresarial en Cuba: Realidades, retos y mitos.*"

Anaya received her Master's degree in Political Economy from the Universidad de la Habana in 2008. Her research focuses on a wide range of topics from social indicators and agricultural trade to education and transportation. She will offer a presentation entitled "*Desempeño productivo y sector externo en Cuba.*"

Note that the lectures and Q&A will be conducted in Spanish.

This event will be held on Tuesday, October 30 at 5 p.m. in the McKinney Conference Room.



Upcoming Events

- 10/30 Cuban Economists Yailenis Mulet and Betsy Anaya
- 11/15 CLACS Forum on International Study
- 3/14 Susan Eckstein to Speak on Cuban Diaspora
- Renowned Cuban Sociologist Aurelio Alonso to Visit Brown
- Descemer Bueno Brings Cuban Music to Brown

Brown in Cuba... and Beyond

On November 15, CLACS will host a lunch-time discussion on international programs offered by Brown University and other entities to students who are interested in studying in Latin America or the Caribbean.

Panel members will address their experiences in cities and countries throughout the region through initiatives such as Brown's Cuba Program, which is offered in partnership with Casa de las Américas.

The forum will feature Brown students, alumni, faculty and community members for whom international study has been important professionally and personally.

This event will take place on November 5 at 12 p.m. in Joukowsky Forum.

Lunch will be provided.



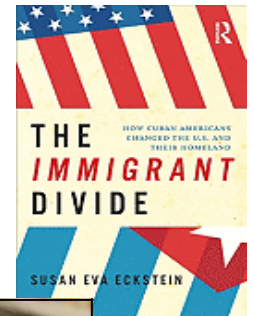
Susan Eckstein to Speak on Cuba's Diaspora

Next March, Susan Eckstein, Professor of Sociology and International Relations at Boston University and former President of LASA, will offer a talk entitled "The New Cuba and the Impact of the Cuban Diaspora in Transforming Their Homeland." She provided us with the following synopsis:

For the first thirty years of Castro's rule the government created a "wall" between Cubans who emigrated and those who stayed loyal to the revolution, and Cubans in the diaspora supported an embargo of Cuba on both the state-to-state and people-to-people level as impermeable as possible, in hopes of thereby bringing Castro's regime to heel. But after Soviet aid and trade ended, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Cuba was forced to reintegrate into the capitalist world economy.

Needing hard currency, the government transformed the diaspora into a dollar generating strategy, by facilitating and tacitly encouraging remittance-sending. Ordinary Cubans themselves wanted remittances to finance a lifestyle they could not otherwise afford, and the "new Cubans" who emigrated left committed to help family they left behind. Despite the new state and societal shared interests in remittances, the government increasingly appropriated remittances at recipients' expense.

In my presentation I will document how and why the government encouraged remittance-sending, tensions between its interests in remittances and those of recipients, and contradictions inherent in the hard currency accumulation strategy that are transforming socialism as Cubans knew it.



Professor Eckstein will speak at 5 p.m. on March 14, 2013 in McKinney Conference Room.

Cuban Sociologist Aurelio Alonso to Visit Brown in April

Renowned sociologist Aurelio Alonso will visit Brown during the second and third weeks of April 2013. Students who have participated in Brown's Study Abroad Program in Cuba will recognize Professor Alonso from their time there, and those interested in the program will find a wonderful resource in him.

Alonso is the author of *Iglesia y política en Cuba revolucionario* (1998) and over eighty articles and essays. He was appointed coordinator of the CLACSO (Latin America and the Caribbean Social Science Council) Working Group

on Religion and Society in 2003 and has offered lectures in countries throughout the Americas and Europe.

He is currently a Lead Researcher at the Center for Psychological and Sociological Research and Professor at the Universidad de Habana.

During his visit, Alonso will offer several lectures to Brown students and the community. A complete list of lectures and activities to be held during his visit will be published on the CLACS Website.



Cuban Musician Descemer Bueno Heads to Providence

Providence will welcome an exciting emerging figure in contemporary world music next Spring. Miami-based Cuban musician Descemer Bueno will travel to Brown University in April 2013 to meet with students and perform on campus.

Though he is not yet a household name, Bueno has worked with the likes of Steve Coleman, Rufus Reid, Dave Matthews Band, Enrique Iglesias and Yusa and performed in countries in North and South America, Africa, and Europe.

Bueno will perform at 8 p.m. on April 12, 2013 at the Underground in Faunce House. For more information see: descemberbueno.com or view an interview with Descemer Bueno at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S33Dt32R4p0>.

"When I dream, I dream of these streets," he says. "I see myself working on more projects here in Cuba now. I come here very often – first off because this is my country and I have my whole family here, but especially because all my musical roots here in Cuba keep pulling me back."

