CUBA
Myth and Reality: Culture, History, Politics
International Conference

May 26th-28th, 2013
Maiersdorf Conference Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Our profound gratitude to the institutions whose cooperation and support made this conference possible:

The Authority for Research and Development at the Hebrew University

The Liwerant Center for the Study of Latin America, Spain and Portugal and their Jewish Communities

The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace

The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations

The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry

The Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel

Special thanks to Ms. Graciela Dyzenchaus, President, Israeli Friends of the Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies
Sunday May 26th, 2013

09:30     Inscriptio

10:00     Greetings
           Manuela Consonni, Chair, Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies
           Ruth Fine, Director, Iberian and Latin American Section, Romance and Latin American Studies; Director, Institute of Western Cultures
           Sergio DellaPergola, Liwerant Center, Hebrew University
           Batia Siebzehner, Truman Institute, Hebrew University
           Graciela Dyzenhaus, President, Israeli Friends of the Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies
           Margalit Bejarano, Confrence's Coordinator

10:30-12:30 Cuban History, 19th and 20th Centuries
           Chair: Yohanan Bar Yafe (Hebrew University)

           Oscar Zanetti (Cuban Academy of History; President, Section of Historical and Social Literature, UNEAC)
           La política azucarera en Cuba revolucionaria: condicionantes y características

           Frank Argote Freyre (Kean University, New Jersey)
           Cuba and Organized Crime: A Myth Explored

           Eduardo Torres (Hebrew University)

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:30 Literature I
           Chair: Saul Sosnowski (University of Maryland)
Myrna Solotorevsky (Hebrew University)
*Arturo, la estrella más brillante de Reinaldo Arenas: un mundo sin escapatorias*

Edmundo Desnoes (Cuban writer; ex-professor in Dartmouth College, Smith Collage, Umass, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke, Stanford University and New York University)
*Cuba: yo y mi circunstancia*

15:30-16:00  *Coffee Break*

16:00-18:30  *Literature II*
Chair: Ruth Fine (Hebrew University)

Daniel Blaustein (Hebrew University)
*Selva semiótica, sensual, sarduyana*

William Little (Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Fl.)
*El hombre que amaba a los perros de Leonardo Padura: novela sociopolítica o novela policiaca*

Florinda F. Goldberg (Hebrew University)
*Judío y cubano: identidades erráticas*

María Capelusnik (Hebrew University)
*Celestino antes del alba: El (anti)héroe de las dos caras*

18:00  *Reception*

19:00  *Tertulia literaria (lectura de poesía y prosa)*
Chair: Leonardo Senkman (Hebrew University)

Nancy Morejón
Tal Nitzan: Poesías de Nancy Morejón en hebreo
Edmundo Desnoes
Felicia Rosshandler
Monday  May 27th, 2013

09:15  
**Greetings:** Reuven Amitai, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

09:30-11:30  **Medicine**
Chair: Mayra Levy (University of Havana)

Deby Babis (Truman Institute, Hebrew University)
La medicina cubana en Bolivia en el siglo XXI: Motivaciones y repercusiones

Alberto Toruncha (Asuta [Ha Shalom], Tel Aviv; formerly University of Havana)
La salud en Cuba

Elsada Diana Cassells (Herbert H. Lehman College, CUNY)
Humanitarianism and Cuban Foreign Policy: Medical Engagements and South-South Cooperation

11:30-12:00  **Coffee Break**

12:00-13:30  **Film: The Chosen Island**
(presented by Mayra Levy and Maritza Corrales)

13:30-14:30  **Lunch**

14:30-16:30  **Jews in Cuba**
Chair: Haim Avni (Hebrew University)

Maritza Corrales (University of Havana)
Aproximaciones a la demografía de la comunidad judía cubana: pasado, presente, ¿futuro?

Mayra Levy (President, Sephardic Center, Havana)
La comunidad sefaradí de Cuba
Felicia Rosshandler (Independent writer)
My Passing through Havana, 1941-1948

16:30-17:00  Coffee Break

17:00-19:00  Music and Film
Chair: Oscar Zanetti (University of Havana)

Moshe Morad (SOAS, University of London)
Music, identity, and social change in Cuba during the Special Period

Tzvi Tal (Sapir College)
Teoría cinematográfica cubana y cine de minorías en Israel

Einat Davidi (Shalem College)
La historia cubana como enfermedad: "exilio total", locura y literatura en Boarding Home de Guillermo Rosales

19:00-19:30  Refreshments

19:30  Screening of Memorias del Subdesarrollo (1968).
Monday May 27th, 2013

09:00-11:15  *Transnationalism and re-diasporization: The Cuban Exile in the US and the Jewish experience*
Chair: Luis Roniger (Wake Forest University)

**Jorge Duany** (Florida International University)
*Blurred borders: The Cuban Diaspora in the context of the Hispanic Caribbean*

**Sergio DellaPergola** (Hebrew University)
*Cubans and other Latin Americans in Israel: A comparative note*

**Ruth Behar** (University of Michigan)
*After Exile: New meanings of identity and Diaspora among Cubans on and off the island*

**Margalit Bejarano** (Hebrew University)
*An (un)pleasant way station: US Cuba relations reflected in the Jewish case*

11:15-11:45  *Coffee Break*

11:45-14:00  *International Relations*
Chair: Jorge Duany (Florida International University)

**Arie Kacowicz** (Hebrew University)
*Cuba and international relations of Latin America, 1959-2013*

**Benjamin Neuberger** (Open University)
*The relations between Cuba and Africa during the Cold War (1960-90)*
Arturo Lopez Levy (Josef Korbel School of International Studies of the University of Denver)

Change in Post-Fidel Cuba: Challenges and opportunities of economic reform and political liberalization

Pinchas Avivi (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affair)

New world, new challenges and new diplomacy

14:00  Farewell Lunch

15:30  Screening of Memorias del desarrollo de Miguel Coyula.

Presentation by author of book, Edmundo Desnoe
List of participants

Prof. Frank Argote Freyre  
Dept. of Latin American History, Kean University, New Jersey (USA)

Pinchas Avivi  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel

Prof. Haim Avni  
Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University (Israel)

Dr. Deby Babis  
Truman Institute, Hebrew University (Israel)

Prof. Yohanan Bar Yafe  
Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies, Hebrew University (Israel)

Prof. Ruth Behar  
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Prof. Elsada Diana Cassells  
Lecturer, Political Science Dept., Herbert H. Lehman College, CUNY (USA)

Maritza Corrales Capestany  
historian, University of Havana (Cuba)

Dr. Einat Davidi  
Shalem College (Israel)

Prof. Sergio DellaPergola  
Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry and Liwerant Center, Hebrew University (Israel)

Prof. Edmundo Desnoes  
Cuban writer living in New York. Ex-professor in Dartmouth College, Smith Collage, Umass, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke, Stanford University and New York University (USA)

Prof. Jorge Duany  
Director, Cuba Research Institute, Florida International University, Miami (USA)

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Prof. Arie Kacowicz
Dept. of International Relations and
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Professor (emeritus) of Farmacology,
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Arturo Lopez Levy
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Korbel School of International Studies,
University of Colorado (USA)

Prof. William Little
Chair of Dept. of French, Humanities
and Spanish, Santa Fe College,
Gainesville, Fl. (USA)

Dr. Moshe Morad
SOAS, University of London (Britain
and Israel)

Nancy Morejón
Poet and writer, President, Association
of Writers, UNEAC – National Union of
Writers and Artists of Cuba; President,
Cuban Academy of Language (Cuba)

Prof. Benjamin Neuberger
Open University (Israel)

Tal Nitzán
Poet, editor and translator of Hispanic
literature (Israel)

Prof. Luis Roniger
Wake Forest University (USA)

Felicia Rosshandler
writer and journalist, New York (USA)

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Prof. Saul Sosnowsky
University of Maryland (USA)

Dr. Zvi Tal
Sapir College, Sderot (Israel)

Eduardo Torres
PhD candidate, Hebrew University (MA
in the University of Havana) (Israel)

Alberto Toruncha
Asuta (Ha Shalom) Israel. Formerly
Profesor at the Superior Institute of
Medical Sciences, Havana, Cuba (Israel)

Prof. Oscar Zanetti
University of Havana; Vice-President of
the Cuban Academy of History and the
UNEAC Section of History (Cuba)