



CUBA

Myth and Reality: Culture, History, Politics

International Conference

May 26th-28th, 2013
Maiersdorf Conference Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



The Liverant Center
for the Study of Latin America, Spain,
Portugal and Their Jewish Communities
at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



המכון ליהדות זמננו
ע"ש אברהם הרטמן
Avraham Harman Institute
of Contemporary Jewry



The Institute
of Western Cultures
המכון לתרבות המערב



המכון לחינוך בינלאומיים
ע"ש לאונרד דוויס
The Leonard Davis Institute
for International Relations



חוג ללימודים רומיניים

և אמריקניים

Department of Romance and
Latin American Studies



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF ISRAEL



Truman
Institute

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 ***Inscription***

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, Liverant Center, Hebrew University

Batia Siebzehner, Truman Institute, Hebrew University

Graciela Dyzenchaus, President, Israeli Friends of the Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies

Margalit Bejarano, Conference'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)

Identidad nacional y sucesión generacional en Cuba. Testimonios de jóvenes cubanos que participaron de la guerra en Angola (1989-1991)

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).**

Directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. Based on a novel by Edmundo Desnoes. Spanish with English subtitles. 97 min. B & W.



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 Affairs)

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

Dept. of Anthropology, University of Michigan (USA)

Dr. Margalit Bejarano

Romance and Latin American Studies, Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry and Liwerant Center, Hebrew University (Israel)

Dr. Daniel Blaustein

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María Capelusnik

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Prof. Elsada Diana Cassells

Lecturer, Political Science Dept., Herbert H. Lehman College, CUNY (USA)

Maritzá Corrales Capestaný

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)

Prof. Ruth Fine, Director

Iberian Section, Romance and Latin American Studies; Director, Institute of Western Cultures, European Forum, Hebrew University (Israel)

Florinda F. Goldberg

Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies, Hebrew University (Israel)



Prof. Arie Kacowicz

Dept. of International Relations and
Davis Institute, Hebrew University
(Israel)

Dr. Mayra Levy

President Sephardic Center, Havana;
Professor (emeritus) of Farmacology,
University of Havana (Cuba)

Arturo Lopez Levy

lecturer and PhD candidate, Josef
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)

Dr. Leonardo Senkman

Liverant Center, Dept. of Romance and
Latin American Studies, Hebrew
University (Israel)

Prof. Myrna Solotorewsky

Dept. of Romance and Latin American
Studies, Hebrew University (Israel)

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)

