

## **Prospects for U.S.-Latin American Relations is subject of May 22-23 Conference at UCSD**

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PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS IS SUBJECT OF MAY 22-23 CONFERENCE AT UC SAN DIEGO

U.S.-Latin American Relations: Prospects and Possibilities, is the subject of a conference to be held May 22-23 at the University of California, San Diego in the Institute of the Americas Complex. The conference, sponsored by UCSD's Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS), will include some of the world's top experts on U.S. policy toward Cuba, human rights in Guatemala, free trade in the Americas, and the U.S. "War on Drugs."

"We are convening this outstanding group of policymakers, scholars, and activists at UCSD to examine the state of U.S.-Latin American relations in the wake of the Santiago Summit of April 1998," said Peter Smith, a prominent authority on U.S.-Latin American relations and the director of CILAS. "We want to encourage open debate, frank discussion, and scholarly analysis of prominent issues on the hemispheric agenda including free trade in the Americas and the status of the drug war. We also want to explore a few significant issues that have received less public attention, such as human rights and the future of U.S. relations with Cuba," he added.

The conference, which is free and open to the public, will begin on Friday, May 22 with a panel discussion from 2-4 p.m. on new approaches to the study of U.S.-Latin American Relations. Panelists will include: Peter Smith; Gilbert Joseph, Yale University; Lars Schoultz, University of North Carolina; and Richard Feinberg, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UCSD.

A reception and book signing from 4-6 p.m., will include several of the conference participants: Jorge Castafieda, a well-known critic and authority on U.S.-Latin American relations at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), "Compañero: The Life and Death of Che Guevara;" Richard Feinberg, a former high-ranking official with the Clinton Administration and a principal architect of the 1994 Summit of the Americas, "Summitry in the Americas;" Lars Schoultz, a leading expert on inter-American relations, "Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America;" and Jennifer Harbury, an attorney and human rights activist with the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, "Searching for Evarado" and "Bridge of Courage. "

Following the reception, Castafieda will give the conference keynote address on the state of the U.S.-Latin American relationship from a Latin American perspective.

On Saturday, May 23, from 9-11 a.m., a panel discussion will be held on U.S. Policy toward Cuba: Can Fidel Survive? Panelists will include David Graham, San Diego Union-Tribune; Jorge Castafieda, UNAM; Rosalie Schwartz, San Diego State University; and Richard Nuccio, Harvard University. Nuccio was the State Department desk officer for Cuba during the Clinton Administration's first term. Presentations will be made on whether the U.S. will ever lift the embargo, tourists and tourism in Cuba, and the cult of Che Guevara.

Prospects for Free Trade in the Americas will be the subject of an 11 a.m. panel. Panelists will include Raul Hinosa-Ojeda, UCLA, and Jaime Granados, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, Costa Rica. Granados was responsible for developing the free trade agenda for the Santiago Summit. Discussion topics will include the FTAA and the Santiago Summit and the pros and cons of NAFTA as a model for the hemisphere.

A panel on Human Rights in Guatemala: the U.S. Role from 2-3:30 p.m. will include Tim Weiner, New York Times; Kate Doyle, National Security Archive; Jennifer Harbury; and Beatriz Manz, UC Berkeley. Weiner, a national security correspondent for the Times who broke the story on CIA complicity with Guatemala's death squads, will discuss the "story behind the story" in his coverage of human rights issues. Harbury, whose husband was killed by Guatemalan armed forces, will discuss her experiences in confronting the U.S. Government.

The last panel --The War on Drugs: Reports from the Front will be held from 3:30-5 p.m. and will include the following panelists: Thomas Tellez, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), San Diego Office; Craig Chretien, Protection One, Los Angeles; and Bruce Bagley, University of Miami. Until recently, Chretien served as a high-ranking official with the DEA. Presentations will be made on drug control in Latin America, the impacts of U.S. drug policy, and efforts to stem the flow of drugs at the U.S.-Mexican border.

For more information about the conference, please call the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS) at (619) 534-6050.

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