Forty internationally renowned Cuba scholars, policymakers and policy analysts will gather at Dalhousie University in Halifax this fall to take the measure of “The Cuban Revolution at 60.”

All sessions will be open to the public, and free.

The three-day symposium (October 31–November 2) will be highlighted by addresses by two of the key players in the historic 2014 re-opening of relations between Cuba and the United States. Josefina Vidal, now Cuba’s ambassador to Canada and then Cuba’s chief negotiator with the Americans, and Jeffrey DeLaurentis, the first US ambassador to Cuba following the renewal of relations, will each offer personal reflections on what happened then, and what isn’t happening now.

Attendees will also learn the results of the very latest research into a controversial and mysterious ailment reported by some US and Canadian diplomats in Cuba. Dr. Alon Friedman, a ground-breaking neuroscientist at the Dalhousie University Brain Repair Centre who recently led a multidisciplinary study into the so-called “Havana Syndrome” for Global Affairs Canada, will present his findings at the conference.

Leading Cuba specialists from Cuba, the UK, Latin America, Europe, the United States and Canada will also participate in a series of panels to assess the successes and challenges of the Cuban economy, Cuba-US relations and Cuba’s international relations. Other panels will focus on climate change and ecological challenges facing the island, as well as social change, including issues of race, gender (in)equity, health and LGBTQ rights.

“This year not only marks the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution,” notes John Kirk, an internationally renowned Cuba scholar and one of the organizers of the event, “but it is also a time of historic transformation on the island: leadership change, constitutional reform, and a complex process of economic developments. We believe this is a good opportunity to discuss the progress Cuba has made over the past 60 years and perhaps more importantly, to analyze current developments.”

**PROGRAM**

**Thursday, October 31**

7:00pm—8:30pm: Inauguration and Opening Panel

[McInnes Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Avenue]

Welcoming Remarks from the Mayor of Halifax, Mike Savage

**Cuba and the Cuban Revolution: Overview and Personal Reflections**

- Antoni Kapcia (University of Nottingham),
- Josefina Vidal (Cuban Ambassador to Canada)
- Rafael Hernández (Editor of Temas)
- Alejandro de la Fuente (Harvard University)

Reception to follow, Student Union Council Chambers (Conference attendees welcome!)

**Friday, November 1**

Coffee to start the day...

9:00—10:30am: Setting the Historical Scene: Evolution of the Revolution

(McInnes Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Building)

Carlos Alzugaray (Member of Temas editorial board)
Emily Morris (University College London)
Antoni Kapcia (University of Nottingham)
Hal Klepak (Royal Military College)

10:30—11:00am: Coffee Break

11:00am—12:30pm: Surviving Climate Change, Envisioning the Ecological Future

Julia Sagebien (Dalhousie University), The Role of RISDoC
Valerie Miller (Environmental Defense Fund), Building a Network for a Sustainable Ocean
Margarita Fernández (Vermont Caribbean Institute), Agroecology, Food and the Climate Crisis: Transition, Adaptation and Building Resilience in Cuba
Gregory Miller (Center for Responsible Travel), The Potential for Ecotourism in Cuba
Orlando Rey (CITMA), Tarea Vida
Emily Kirk (Dalhousie University), Disaster Management in Cuba: A Health -based Approach

12:30—1:30pm: Lunch

1:30—2:00pm Keynote Address:

Alon Friedman (Department of Neurology, Dalhousie University),

The ‘Havana Syndrome’: An Analysis of the Canadian Diplomats’ Health in Cuba

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Friday, November 1 (continued)

2:00—3:30pm: Social Change in Cuba: Past Successes, Future Challenges

Yulexis Almeida (University of Havana),
—The Intersection of Race and Gender
Harold Cárdenas (Columbia University),
—Youth
Maria del Carmen Zabala (FLACSO Cuba),
—Social Equality in Cuba: successes and challenges in the present context
Gail Reed (MEDICC),
—Health in Cuba: Crossroads and Crosshairs
Maria José Espinosa (Center for Democracy in the Americas),
—Women and LGBTQ+ in a Changing Cuban Society

3:30—4:00pm: Coffee Break

4:00—5:30pm Mesa Abierta: Discussion of the Day’s Themes:

Peter Kornbluh (National Security Archives),
Meg Crahan (Columbia University),
Carlos Alzugaray (Temas),
Geoff Thale (Washington Office on Latin America)
Helen Yaffe (University of Glasgow)

7:00—9:00pm Reception with Live Cuban Music: Marcel Amores and Plan Ashé

Halifax Hall, Halifax City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street
(for conference presenters and invited guests)

Saturday, November 2

9:00—10:30am: Economic Change in Cuba: Successes and Challenges

Emily Morris (University College London),
—Foreign Investment: Prospects & Challenges
Paolo Spadoni (Augusta University),
—Cuba’s External Trade and Investment Sectors
Ricardo Torres (CEEC),
—Economic Reforms/Macroeconomics
Al Campbell (University of Utah),
—Building a Prosperous and Sustainable Socialism: Successes and Challenges
Antonio Romero (University of Havana),
—External Economic Relations & Current Challenges

10:30—11:00am: Coffee Break

11:00am—12:30pm: Cuba and the United States—A Roundtable Discussion

William LeoGrande (American University)
Carlos Alzugaray (Temas)
Robert L. Muse, Washington, D.C. lawyer
Guillermo Grenier (Florida International University)

12:30pm—1:30pm: Lunch

1:30—2:00pm Keynote Address:

Jeffrey DeLaurentis
Georgetown University;
Former US Ambassador to Cuba

“US-Cuba Relations: Personal Reflections”

2:00—3:30pm: Cuba’s International Relations, Now and Tomorrow

H. Michael Erisman (Indiana State University)
—Cuba as a PetroPower?: Foreign Relations Implications
Ana Covarrubias (Colegio de México)
—Cuba’s Relations with Mexico
Mervyn Bain (University of Aberdeen)
—Cuba and Russia
Andrés Serbin (CRIES),
—Cuba and Latin America

4:00—5:30pm: Closing Plenary: Survival, Development and Sovereignty

Mario Bronfman (Ford Foundation),
Rafael Hernández (Editor, Temas),
Ricardo Torres (University of Havana),
Hal Klepak (Royal Military College of Canada),
Josefina Vidal (Ambassador of Cuba to Canada)
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