China-Cuba:

Trajectories of Post-Revolutionary Governance

Conference to be held at Tulane University

17-18 April 2015

Organized by

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With the support of:

The Center for Inter-American Policy and Research, Tulane University
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DAY 1 (Friday, 17 April 2015) [Location: Lavin-Bernick Center 203 (Stibbs Room)]
Introductory remarks by Ludovico Feoli (Director, Center for Inter-American Policy and Research, Tulane University) and Ana López (Associate Provost and Director, Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute, Tulane University) (8:30-8:45 am)

Panel 1: Political Reforms in China and Cuba (8:45-10:45 am)
Paper Presenters: Joseph Fewsmith (Boston University), “Factionalism versus Leninism: The Struggle to Maintain the Leninist Party in Contemporary China”
Nara Dillon (Harvard University), “Two Worlds of Welfare Communism: China and Cuba Compared”
Discussants: Andrew Walder (Stanford University) and Carmelo Mesa-Lago (University of Pittsburgh)

COFFEE BREAK 10:45-11:00
Panel 2: Economic Reforms in China and Cuba (11:00 am-1:00 pm)
Richard Feinberg (University of California San Diego), “Soft Landing in Cuba? Emerging Entrepreneurs and Middle Classes”
Paolo Spadoni (Georgia Regents University), “Raúl Castro’s Economic Reforms: Challenges, Evolution, and Assessment”
Discussants: Jean Oi (Stanford University) and Carmelo Mesa-Lago (University of Pittsburgh)

LUNCH (1:00-2:00 pm)
Panel 3: The Evolving Role of the Military (2:00-3:30 pm)
Discussant: Ludovico Feoli (Tulane University)

COFFEE BREAK (3:30-3:45)
Panel 4: Changes in the Governance of Ideology and Culture (3:45-5:45 pm)
Abel Sierra Madero (NYU), “From the New Man to Transvestism of the State: The Discourse of Diversity as Rhetoric of ‘Transition’ in Postsocialist Cuba”
Discussants: Elizabeth Perry (Harvard University) and Jana Lipman (Tulane University)
KEYNOTE SPEECH AND CATERED DINNER (6:30-8:30 pm)
Keynote Speaker: Carmelo Mesa-Lago (University of Pittsburgh), “A Comparative Analysis of Structural Reforms in Cuba and China”

DAY 2 (Saturday, 18 April 2015) Location: Lavin-Bernick Center 203 (Stibbs]
Panel 5: Media Governance in China (9:00-10:30 am)
Paper Presenters: Jason Q. Ng (Yale University and Information Controls Fellowship Program, Open Technology Fund/The Citizen Lab), “Justifying Censorship: Using WeChat Public Posts to Examine the Chinese Initiative to Curtail Online Lies and Falsehoods (Anti-Rumor Campaign)”
Zheng Li (Leiden University), “Media Control in Post-Revolutionary China”
Discussant: Martin Dimitrov (Tulane University)

COFFEE BREAK (10:30-10:45 am)
Panel 6: Media Governance in Cuba (10:45-12:45 pm)
Ted Henken (Baruch College), “From Cyberspace to Public Space: Cuba’s Emergent Non-State Digital Media Sphere, Changing U.S. Policy, and Cuban Civil Society”
Elaine Diaz (Univ. of Havana/Harvard University), “Blogs and Public Debate in Cuba: Debate, Questioning and Socio-Political Activism”
Martin Dimitrov (Tulane University), “Cartas a la Dirección: Citizen Complaints as a Source of Information on Popular Opinion in Cuba”
Discussant: Ana López (Tulane University)

LUNCH (12:45-1:30 pm)
Panel 7: Chinese Views of Reform in Cuba (1:30-3:00 pm)
Paper Presenters: Jiang Shixue (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), “A Tale of Two Socialist Countries: Cuban and Chinese Reforms Compared”
Xu Shicheng (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), “The Tortuous Course of Cuba’s Reform Since the Late 1980s: Views of a Chinese Scholar”
Discussant: Elizabeth Perry (Harvard University)

COFFEE BREAK (3:00-3:15 pm)
Panel 8: Cuban Views of Reform (3:15-4:45 pm)
Paper Presenters: Rafael Hernandez (Temas), “How do Dragons and Pitirres Learn to Talk with the Eagle: Domestic Economic, Political and Cultural Corollaries”
Discussant: Arachu Castro (Tulane University)

Concluding Discussion (5:00-6:00 pm) [Moderated by Martin Dimitrov] The Logic of Comparing Chinese and Cuban Trajectories of Post-Revolutionary Governance: What is unique about the respective Chinese and Cuban reform paths? What are the most important commonalities? Are there insights generated by examining China and Cuba that could be used to study governance and regime resilience in other non-democracies?

DINNER 7:00 pm (at a restaurant)