

The New School
The Observatory on Latin America
Conference

New Opportunities for US – Latin American Relations:
Latin American Perspectives

April 10, 2009

In the last six months there have been four reports prepared by leading institutions in the United States on opportunities for changes in US- Latin relations. These reports were largely prepared by North American specialists on this subject in anticipation of the new Administration in Washington and without much critical perspective from Latin Americans involved in politics and international affairs. The purpose of this Observatory on Latin America (OLA) conference was to provide a space for a Latin American exchange on opportunities for new approaches to US-Latin American relations.

The conference was organized into three sessions:

10.00am - 12.30pm: Session 1: Overview: Visions of US Latin American Relations

Chair: Michael Cohen, Director OLA

Presentation: Greg Grandin, Department of History, New York University

Commentators:

- Ariel Bergamino, Presidential Advisor, Uruguay
- Lázaro Cárdenas, Former governor of the Michoacan State, Mexico
- Torcuato di Tella, Political Scientist, and former Secretary of Culture, Argentina
- Joao Feres, Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ), author of recent book on US-Latin American Relations

Round-table discussion

12.30pm - 2.00pm: Break

2.00pm - 3.30pm: Session 2: Economic Relations in a time of Global Crisis

Chair: Alberto Minujín, Fellow OLA

Presentation: Pablo Solón, Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations

Commentators:

- Marcelo Brignoni, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina

- Anwar Shaikh, Professor, Department of Economics, The New School

Round-table discussion

3.30pm - 4.00pm: Break

4.00pm - 6.00pm: Session 3: US Relations with Progressive Regimes

Chair: Margarita Gutman, Director Bicentennial Program OLA

Presentation: María Fernanda Espinosa, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

Commentators:

- Jaime Sorin, Dean of FADU-UBA and one of the founders of the Carta Abierta movement in Argentina
- José Luis Valdés Ugalde, Director, Center for Research on North America, UNAM, Mexico
- Federico Vázquez Calero, researcher-advisor, UNDP Regional Project on Political Analysis and Prospective Scenarios

Round-table discussion

6.00pm-6.15pm: Closing remarks: Michael Cohen

Simultaneous Translation was provided

Confirmed Special Guests:

- Andrés Borthagaray, former Sub-Secretary of Decentralization and Transport, Government of the City of Buenos Aires
- José Luis Cancela, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations
- Claudio Costabel, Chief Advisor of Bloque del Encuentro por la Democracia y la Equidad, Santa Fe, Argentina.
- Adriana Lissidini, Consul of Uruguay in New York
- María Julia Reyna, Advisor, Special Projects Unit, Government of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina
- Min. Adriana Trotta, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Argentina in New York