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LATIN
AMERICAN
& LATINO
STUDIES

Cuba Initiative



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

CUBA INITIATIVE

Since its inception, our Cuba Initiative has assigned priority to analyzing key challenges facing the Cuban economy, including the possibility of its further integration into international trade and financial networks. At a moment when Cuba had undertaken dramatic reforms to stimulate the development of state enterprises, cooperatives, and the private sector, we focused our efforts on assessing implications of Cuba's transition to a more market-oriented development model. As Cuba contemplates further reforms while assessing effects of those undertaken, we continue to gauge possible impacts of transformations in modes of employment, labor relations and economic regulation. Bringing together expert Cuban social scientists with American University faculty represents an important part of this strategy and enhances our assessments.



Since the project's inception in 2011, CLALS faculty-affiliates have traveled to Havana, Cuba and attended annual seminars, participated in round-table discussions, and led conferences to assess relevant events in the country. In the "post-Castro" era, our work on Cuba has continued in the form of events, blog posts, and new publications aimed at understanding

the ongoing changes on the island, especially as they correspond to the U.S.-Cuba relationship. Following the protests that swept Cuba on July 11, 2021, CLALS hosted a virtual symposium to examine the protests. This symposium presented original essays in English and Spanish that examine the political, economic, social, and cultural conditions that led up to

July 11, and the significance of these events for Cuba's future. CLALS received a substantial grant to launch a new project "Catalyzing a New Generation of Researchers Advancing Change in Cuba." This project will convene a network of Cuban researchers to analyze economic reforms and social policy.