



Transformation and Continuity in Cuba
International Conference
March 20-21, 2020

The main theme in our **Year of Cuba Conference** invites interdisciplinary approaches to the multiple, enriching, and conflicting intersections taking place in this country. This forum, in partnership with CIFAL Atlanta, serves as a platform

to engage in scholarly conversations that will contribute to understanding the complexities of Cuba, generating new forms of engagement and learning, and appreciating the many forms of Cuban's resiliency and contributions to the world.

At a historic news conference in Havana back in 2016, former President Barack Obama reflected on the *nuevo día* dawning for Cuba and the United States: "Cuba's destiny will not be decided by the United States or any other nation. Cuba is sovereign and rightly has great pride. And the future of Cuba will be decided by Cubans, not by anybody else." This speech marked the reaffirmation of a transitional period that started in 2014 called the Cuban Thaw, an overture to reestablish relations between both countries after a period of estrangement that began back in 1959 with Fidel Castro's *Revolución*. The end of this 60-year hostility could become a reality with the lift of the trade embargo; the culmination of the Castrista dynasty; the ease of American travel to Cuba; the long-awaited release of political prisoners; and the development of dozens of bilateral projects that would foment the performing arts, culture, sports, the ecological landscape, and medicine. Undertaking drastic economic reforms and striking a balance between rupture and tradition, however, have proven in a post-Castro era to come with promises and shortcomings.

We invite proposals for academic papers across the disciplines that think critically about Cuba related topics, not limited to the following:

Social Issues – Same-Sex Marriage, Journalism, Social Justice, and Community Development
Economic Issues – Equity, Mobility, Tourism, Remittances, Investment and Healthcare
Cultural Studies - Race, Class and Gender; Cuisine, Sports, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, *Activism*
Historic Preservation – Architecture, Memory, Storytelling, Museum Studies
Religious Studies - Cuban *Santería*, Jewish Heritage, Christianity, and Secularism
Cuban History –Slave Trade, Colonialism, *Revolución*, Post-Castro Cuba
Environmental Studies- Climate Change, Disaster Response, and Sustainability
Cuba-U.S. Relations - Spanish American War, the Embargo, the Cuban Thaw, and the Role of Baseball
Cuban Americans & Transnational Cuba – Cuban Communities Across the Globe
Technology & Science –Internet, Youth Activism, Advances in Medicine and Emergency Response

For additional context on the Year of Cuba and the conference visit <https://dga.kennesaw.edu/yearof/cuba/>)

Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts: To participate, please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words describing the focus of your proposed paper or panel, the methodology employed, and the general argument. At the top of the abstract, type your name, institutional affiliation, position or title, contact phone number, and e-mail. If you wish to propose a panel, please submit the title and abstract for each paper, along with the names and institutional affiliation of all panelists. Save in one Word or RTF document and attach the document to an email message. Type "Year of Cuba Conference" in the subject line and send it to Dr. Dan Paracka at dparacka@kennesaw.edu.

EXTENDED Deadline for Submission of Abstracts is **November 1, 2019**. Select Papers will be eligible for publication in a Special Issue of KSU's peer reviewed Journal of Global Initiatives focused on Cuba. Examples of previous journals can be accessed at <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jgi/>

