

**CARIBBEAN POLITICS SPECIALIST GROUP PLENARY,  
POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

The Caribbean Politics Specialist Group is delighted to announce that Dr Emilio Pantojas-Garcia will be giving a presentation at the first Caribbean Politics plenary session at the UK Political Studies Association. The group has been awarded a grant from the PSA to facilitate Dr Pantojas-Garcia's attendance.



**Emilio Pantojas-García**  
Biographical Profile

Sociologist, Senior Researcher at the Center for Social Research and Acting Director of the Graduate School of Business Administration of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. His research fields are political sociology and economic development in the Caribbean Basin. His recent work deals with trade liberalization and economic development in Puerto Rico and economic development in the Insular Caribbean centered on the tourism and entertainment industries; conceptualized as peripheral postindustrialization.

B.Phil. in Latin American Studies and Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Liverpool, 1978 and 1983. A leading Caribbean Specialist he has been Director of the Center for Social Research (1994-1998) and the Caribbean Resource Center (1997-2000) at the University of Puerto Rico. He has been also president of the Puerto Rican Studies Association (1995-96) and the Caribbean Studies Association (2004-05). Member of the Editorial Board of *Latin American Research Review* (2000-2005), and Fulbright Scholar in 1987.

Recent Publications:

- 2009      *Governance in the Non-Independent Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities in the Twenty First Century*. Edited with Peter Clegg. Kingston, Jamaica, Ian Randle Publishers (forthcoming).
- 2008      “Economic Integration and Caribbean Identity: Convergences and Divergences.” *Caribbean Studies*. 35, 2, (January-June).
- 2007      “‘Federal Funds’ and the Puerto Rican Economy: Myths and Realities.” *El Centro Journal*. 19, 2 (fall): 207-223.

- 2006 “El Caribe y la nueva Pax Americana.” *Pensamiento Propio*. No. 24 (julio-diciembre): 135-152.
- “De la plantación al *resort*: El Caribe en la era de la globalización.” *Revista de Ciencias Sociales*. No. 15 (summer): 82-99.
- 2005 “Fifty Years of Commonwealth: The Contradictions of Free Associated Statehood in Puerto Rico.” With Jorge Duany. In *Extended Statehood in the Caribbean: Paradoxes of quasi colonialism, local autonomy and extended statehood in the USA, French, Dutch & British Caribbean*. Edited by Lammert de Jong and Dirk Kruijt, Amsterdam, Rozenberg Publishers: 21-57.
- “The Puerto Rican Paradox: Colonialism Revisited.” *Latin American Research Review*. 40, 3, fall: 163-176.

### Abstract

**The Challenges of Globalization in the non independent Caribbean:  
Trade Liberalization, Development and Good Governance  
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*Good governance is perhaps the most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development.*

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and The Pacific, 2007.\*

The debate between “free trade” and “commercial protectionism” is not new to the fields of political economy or international public policy (trade policy). The pros and cons of each alternative policy, their potential impact on democracy, economic development and the well being of the citizens of a country or territory have been debated since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the Americas. In the twenty first century, the debate has taken a new turns and nuances. Globalization, the world wide interconnectedness of social, political and economic processes that have made the world “flat”—in the words of Thomas L. Friedman (2005)—is the new framework of this stage of the debate between these two visions of the international political economy. Political scientists, economists, policy makers and entrepreneurs ponder and argue on the impact of globalization and trade liberalization on political systems. The preponderant view in international trade and economic organizations, such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the Inter American Development Bank, is that globalization and free trade advance democracy and development and, hence, good governance.

The issue of the link between trade liberalization, development and democracy constitute a critical point of debate among the less developed countries in the Western Hemisphere. Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, Lula Da Silva in Brazil, and Alvaro Uribe in Colombia, represent the leading views of the debate. Protectionism, controlled trade liberalization within the framework of South-South trade relations, and traditional North-South bilateral trade liberalization are the three “paradigms” or alternatives confronted in the debate.

In this global controversy, the Caribbean finds itself as a “policy taker” rather than a “policy maker”. Both the non independent territories (NITs) and the independent countries (ICs) of the Caribbean face challenges and threats to their polity and economy. The signing of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), as well as joining economic blocs such as the ALBA (Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas) have enormous implications for the future of democracy and economic development in the Caribbean. This paper examines some of the key issues of adopting trade liberalization policies and their implications for development, democracy, governance and governability in the non-independent Caribbean today. Examining the Caribbean experience will allow us to draw parallels and lessons for small countries in other regions, especially Asia, facing similar policy issues.

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\* UNESCAP, *Challenges of the Least Developed Countries: Governance and Trade*. Bangkok, UNESCAP, 2007, p. 9

2004        “Globalization and Economic Vulnerability: The Caribbean After 9/11”, with  
Thomas Klak. *Caribbean Security in the Age of Terror: Challenge and Change*.  
Edited by Ivelaw L. Griffith, Kingston, Jamaica, Ian Randle Publishers: 176-198.

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