

CANADA- MEXICO SEMINAR

Canada-Mexico Big Picture Realities: NAFTA Plus, Immigration, the Security-First Border, the Bush Foreign Policy Revolution and the Global South

November 7 – 8, 2005

Organized by Daniel Drache, Associate Director, Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, York University

**Monday November, 7, 2005:
Private Dining Hall, Executive Learning Centre, Schulich School of Business, York University**

8:30 – 9:00 Welcome and coffee:

Welcome address from **Ambassador María Teresa García Segovia de Madero**, Embassy of Mexico in Canada and **Seth Feldman**, Director of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies.

9:00 – 10:30

Panel 1: NAFTA Plus or NAFTA Minus: A dead end or a fresh start? Ten years after the signing/implementation of NAFTA there are clear signs of the need to proceed to the next steps in integration: increasing trade facilitation, improving the system of trade dispute panels, and reducing the transaction costs of a security-first border. But there are also cons to further integration such as the rise of American protectionism and an administration that is preoccupied with Homeland Security and the Bush revolution in foreign policy. For Canada and Mexico what is the next step in a post-NAFTA world? More integration? Integration through trade only? Or through economic cooperation? Will a NAFTA-plus agenda alleviate the disparities in economic development between the NAFTA countries? Does Mexico need a different economic strategy?

Lead-off speakers: **Daniel Drache** (York University)
Gustavo Vega Canovas (El Colegio de México)

10:45 – 12:30

Panel 2: Immigration Flows, Human Rights, and Political Refugees For Mexico, immigration is an essential concern that dominates much public debate and discussion. The momentum for negotiating a migration agreement with the Bush administration seems to have passed, but Mexican people, driven by economic disparities in the region, are forced to look for employment in the US.

How should Mexico face this challenge in a post-NAFTA environment? What mechanisms are needed to enforce safe, legal, and orderly migrations flows that respect human rights? For Canada, a country proud of its multicultural diverse character, immigration and political refugees are major issues. What can Canada and Mexico do collaboratively to guarantee a safe and efficient movement of people across North America's borders?

Lead-off speakers: **Alex Neve** (Amnesty International)
Ana Covarrubias (El Colegio de México)

12:45 – 1:45: Lunch

2:00 – 3:30

Panel 3: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy The Bush administration has reframed US foreign policy goals and practices. Its commitment to regime change when necessary and disregard for international law when appropriate have opened a new page in global politics. No country, no ally, no neighbour can be indifferent to the reframing of US priorities. Faced with changes in both the style and content of US foreign policy practices, how must Canada and Mexico relate to the “transformational diplomacy” now so much in evidence? Should they become loyalists, skeptics, or should they continue to respond on an *ad hoc* basis; bumping off each new American initiative? What kind of strategic priorities are required?

Lead-off speakers: **Stephen Clarkson** (University of Toronto)
Jorge Chabat (CIDE, México)

3:45 – 5:00

Panel 4: North American Security Perimeter? Post-September 11, the undefended, people-friendly, open border has disappeared forever. Even the Mexico-US border, already heavily militarized and securitized has become even more so. Mexicans and Canadians do not understand the extent to which US constitutional law and institutional arrangements have changed. US Homeland Security has systemically implemented vast changes to US security practices for passengers, air and land freight, and for police and intelligence practices as well it has upgraded the US security infrastructure. Canada and Mexico have stepped up to the plate. The question now is what more needs to be done? Do we need common policies or complimentary ones? Do we need transnational institutions of coordination?

Lead-off speakers: **Jordi Diez** (University of Guelph)
Wesley Wark (University of Toronto)

Group Dinner: 7:30 pm Via Oliveto- 376 Bloor West (2 block west of Spadina; 416-925-6689)

Tuesday November 8, 2005

Private Dining Hall, Executive Learning Centre, Schulich School of Business, York University

9:00 – 10:30

Panel 5: Turbo Capitalism: Winners and Losers? What kind of adjustments do Canada and Mexico have to make faced with the export strength of Asian turbo-capitalism? India and China represent both an opportunity and a challenge for Canada and Mexico. What real threats do countries like China and India present for trade and investment in the current phase of globalization? Brazil represents a different challenge. Are there possibilities for engaging Brazil in the development of specific sectors in Canada and Mexico? How are Canada and Mexico addressing the Brazil factor? What about India? How can Mexico and Canada diversify their exports? What are the tough new challenges?

Lead-off speakers: **Víctor López Villafañe** (Tecnológico de Monterrey)

Ed Dosman (York University)

10:45 – 12:30

Panel 6: Building the Canada-Mexico Relationship: Thinking Outside the Box Since the inception of NAFTA, trade and investment between Canada and Mexico has been a very moderate success story. If commerce is not the likely basis upon which to build a strong Canada-Mexico relationship, what is the alternative for the *bookends* of the North American continent? Should both countries be investing in the exchange of people, services, technology, and students? What should Mexico do to stem the outflow of workers? What do they need to do to upgrade their relationship? What is the role of the Mexican Congresses in the bilateral relationship? Should Canada make the Canada-Mexico relationship a priority? What could be their role in hemisphere?

Lead-off speakers: **Andrew Cooper** (CIGI, University of Waterloo)

Duncan Wood (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México)

12:30 Final Lunch

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