

# **FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA)**

## **A ROUNDTABLE SERIES**

**FACULTY CONFERENCE ROOM  
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**OCTOBER 2003  
12:30-2:00 PM**

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**The Center for Hispanic and Caribbean Legal Studies  
and the  
Society for Peace and Justice  
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**and**

**Center for Latin American Studies  
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In November, 2003, Miami will host a ministerial meeting of the FTAA. The purpose of the meeting is for the governments of North, South and Central America and the Caribbean (except Cuba) to continue progress toward the negotiation of a Free Trade Areas of the Americas. The project to create a FTAA raises many complex and controversial issues and has sparked significant civil resistance by labor, peasants, environmentalists, students, small farmers and businesses in countries throughout the hemisphere. The purpose of this roundtable series is to promote a sustained dialogue on the pros and cons of the FTAA, featuring a wide variety of interdisciplinary perspectives from fields such as law, architecture, geography, nursing and international studies, as well as community based organizations. Please join us for these important discussions!

## **FRIDAY, October 3rd, 2003**

### **FREE TRADE, CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORLD POVERTY**

This opening roundtable will provide background and context for understanding the key points of debate on the pros and cons of the FTAA. To understand this debate, you need to understand some neoliberal economic theory, as well as the history of its uses and abuses in organizing macro and micro economic policies throughout the hemisphere. Accordingly, this roundtable will debate the validity of basic neoliberal economic theories such as comparative advantage, review the historical record of neo-liberal policies in the rise and fall of Latin America's "economic miracle," assess the impact of neoliberal economic and trade policies on domestic interests within the United States, and examine the relationship between the FTAA and other international economic regimes such as the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF as well as the scope of domestic and international opposition to these regimes. The purpose of the discussions is to provide an interdisciplinary and community-based perspective on the key points of contention over free trade's promise to "lift all boats."

- Gihan Perera, Executive Director, Miami Workers Center [CHCLS]
- Bill Smith, Department of International Studies [CLAS]
- Lisa Iglesias, School of Law [CHCLS]
- Alan Swan, School of Law [CHCLS]
- Caroline Bradley, School of Law [CHCLS]

## **MONDAY, October 13th, 2003**

### **THE POLITICS OF POLLUTION: FREE MARKETS, FREE TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM**

This discussion will focus on the relationship between pollution and race and the environmental consequences of corporate globalization. Critics of the FTAA often site the impact of NAFTA on the environmental destruction of communities inhabited by poor people of color not only because of NAFTA's role in accelerating the maquiladora style "development," that has devastated areas such as Northern Mexico, but also because of the impact of "free trade" rules and "investor rights" on state regulations relating to toxic dumping, pesticides, conservation and other environmental protection efforts. This roundtable will debate the impact of the proposed FTAA on the ability of member countries to regulate environmental protection, with a particular focus on the problem of

environmental racism both within the United States and throughout the hemisphere.

- Miami Workers Center Representative [CHCLS]
- Jean Francois LeJeune, School of Architecture [CLAS]
- Kenneth Broad, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science [CLAS]

## **MONDAY, October 20, 2003**

### **PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS, ENGINEERED FOOD AND MONOPOLIZED MEDICINES**

This discussion will examine the impact of the proposed FTAA on issues of public health, food security, and the debate over U.S. patent and copyright regimes. This debate implicates a wide range of issues such as the transfer of technologies from developed to underdeveloped countries, access to patented medicines – as in the controversy over HIV drugs, protection of indigenous rights in local knowledges and traditional medicines, as well as the struggle against genetically modified seed products and the impact on indigenous farmers.

- Miami Workers Center Representative [CHCLS]
- Sherry Porcelain, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health [CLAS]
- J. Bryan Page, Department of Anthropology [CLAS]

## **MONDAY, October 27, 2003**

### **GENDER IDENTITY AND THE FTAA**

This discussion will focus on the impact of Free Trade on gender and sexual identity issues throughout the Americas and the challenges faced by various marginalized groups in defining and developing their individual and group identities. [Schedule: 1 hour screening of “Now Globalization and Women”]

- Lillian Manzor, Department of Foreign Languages [CHCLS]
- Jennifer Van Bergen, Vice Chair Broward ACLU, Chair Bill of Rights Defense Committee [CHCLS]
- Jennifer L. Mandel, Department of Geography and Regional Studies [CLAS]

## **FRIDAY, October 31, 2003 (Room 216b, Law School)**

## **CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE ROLE OF A UNIVERSITY IN A FREE SOCIETY**

This discussion will focus on the role of dissent in civil society and the history of state reaction to the anti-globalization movements that have organized opposition to the FTAA in cities and countries throughout the hemisphere. In particular, we will examine the role of universities in promoting free discussion and the particular role that law students can play in promoting respect for civil rights during times of civil dissent.

- Max Rameau, Miami Workers Center Representative [CHCLS]
- Jennifer Van Bergen, Vice Chair Broward ACLU [CHCLS]
- Andrea Costello, National Lawyers Guild [CHCLS]
- Ray Taseff, Public Defenders Office [CHCLS]
- Cara Jennings, Free Circus Area of the Americas [CHCLS]