

Entrepreneurial Realignment in Cuba: What Role for Small Private Enterprise?

The presentation examines how individual entrepreneurs perceive their changing internal and external environments in Cuba, a country with a highly regulated yet emerging entrepreneurial class. It builds on the concept of everyday exchange or mundane entrepreneurship (called *blat*) originally developed as a lens to understand non-state actions in the former USSR, and applies it to contemporary Cuba. I use survey data from over 450 entrepreneurs taken in 1998, 2008, and 2011 to situate this case of entrepreneurship in Cuba. Findings show that the inability to buy in bulk continues to be the chief barrier for entrepreneurial success. Contemporary entrepreneurship on the island shares important similarities with the Soviet *blat* system, while also exhibiting traits that are unique to the Cuban case.

Presented by:

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Communist party member's private shoe repair business

Monday, November 2nd ♦ Quigley Auditorium ♦ 12:15 p.m.

BYO Lunch Lecture

Sponsored by:

The Mellon Foundation Internationalization Grant
The Department of Economics Center for Business and Economics
The Department of Modern and Classical Languages
The Department of History