

Call for Papers and Research Projects
VII Workshop of the Regional Integration Network (RIN)
San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 29-30, 2007

The Seventh Workshop of the Regional Integration Network (RIN) will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 29-30. This Workshop is sponsored by LACEA and is organized by the Department of Economics of the Recinto de Río Piedras de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPRRP).

The RIN Workshop is a unique event that brings together top researchers and policymakers from around the world to discuss recent theoretical and empirical advances in the economics and politics of Regional Integration Agreements (RIAs). The goal of these meetings is to use the findings of research in order to gain a better understanding of the problems, opportunities and policy challenges faced by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the process of integration and also to encourage further research on the subject. While authors should feel free to submit papers on all areas linked to economic integration, this Seventh Workshop will specially welcome papers that address the topics of informal features of RIAs, integration and technical change, human capital mobility, CAFTA_DR, Cuba and trade integration, civil society and trade, regional integration on environmental issues, CARICOM achievements and challenges, CARICOM and Puerto Rican trade.

The program will consist of eight brainstorming sessions that will be divided into invited sessions and regular sessions. The papers for the regular sessions will be selected among the submitted papers. Each paper of both invited and regular sessions will be briefly commented by a discussant leaving ample time for general discussion. A Program Committee formed by Antoni Estevadeordal (Inter-American Development Bank), María Enchautegui (UPRRP), Juan Lara (UPRRP), Marcelo Olarreaga (World Bank), José Gregorio Pineda (Corporación Andina de Fomento), Ernesto Rodríguez (UPRRP, Chairperson), Pablo Sanguinetti (Universidad Torcuato DiTella), Isidro Soloaga (Colegio de México) Ernesto Stein (Inter-American Development Bank) and Juan Rafael Vargas (Universidad de Costa Rica) will be in charge of selecting the contributed papers and discussants for the regular sessions as well as the participants in invited sessions.

Previous meetings of the Regional Integration Network attracted very good papers and an extremely qualified attendance from around the world resulting in a very fruitful exchange of ideas. Past participants included Jeffrey Bergstrand, Edward Leamer, Arvind Panagariya, Anthony Venables and Jeffrey Williamson, among others.

We welcome theoretical and empirical research relevant for understanding the economics and politics of RIAs (for convenience, a list of suggested topics is included in this Call for Papers which although not exhaustive will serve as a guide for Workshop participants). Both policy oriented and theoretical papers are welcomed. A special emphasis will be placed on attracting young scholars and those of Caribbean countries.

In order to participate in the Workshop it will be necessary to submit a paper or research project testifying to the author's research commitment to this field. For some academic participants, we expect to be able to offer hotel accommodations and a round-trip economy class (most direct) airfare. We urge you to find other sources of funds to cover other transportation costs, as we are running this on a very limited budget. Academics and researchers currently occupying policy-making positions are welcome to participate in the Workshop without presenting a paper. These participants will have to procure funding from their own institutions to participate in the Workshop.

Please, send us an email indicating your willingness to participate in the Workshop to rin2007@fce.ucr.ac.cr no later than October 5th, together with the title of the paper and an abstract. The submission deadline for papers and research projects is November 1th. Papers (preliminary drafts are acceptable) must be submitted in PDF format. The authors of the selected

papers and discussants will be notified before November 16th. US valid visa is needed for citizens of countries who are required to have it.

In this year's Workshop we hope to replicate the success of previous editions. As an additional incentive, Borinquen is "la tierra del Edén" and one of the most important tourists attraction in the Caribbean. (consult www.uprrp.edu)

Sincerely,

Andrés Velasco
LACEA's President
Sumitomo-FASID Professor of International Finance and Development
Kennedy School of Government

Ernesto L. Rodríguez
Chairperson
Department of Economics
Universidad de Puerto Rico en Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

I. Trade Integration

- CARICOM achievements and challenges
- CAFTA_DR issues
- Analysis of North-South RIAs (ie. LAC Bilateral agreements with US, Europe, Japan)
- Multilateral Trade Rules (WTO) and Regional Trade Arrangements
- Effects of Trading Blocks on Global Liberalization
- Lessons from NAFTA and other RIAs.
- Effects of RIAs at the sub-national level.
- CGE and other approaches to modeling trade integration

II. The Economics and Politics of Regional Integration Agreements (RIAs)

- Informal features of RIAs
- CARICOM and Puerto Rican trade
- Economic and Political Determinants of RIAs
- Performance of RIAs under the new protagonism of China and India in world markets.
- Impact of new players
- Political Economy dimensions of RIAs (e.g. should Mercosur or the Andean Community negotiate RIA as a bloc or individually? Should RIAs be used as a trade liberalization strategy?)
- Asymmetries in the integration process
- Dispute Settlement Mechanisms within RIAs
- The asymmetries of economic size of trade partners
- South-South trade agreements
- Agriculture and trade
- Regional integration, poverty and inequality
- The Rise of Regionalism in Asia and its effects on LAC

III. Monetary and Financial Integration

- Currency Unions
- Exchange Rate Harmonization
- Macroeconomic coordination

IV. Integration beyond Trade

- Integration and technical change
- Cuba and trade integration
- Regional Cooperation (regulatory policies and infrastructure, i.e. PPP, IIRSA, etc.)
- Product Standards

- Labor Standards
- Environmental Standards
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Government Procurement
- Competition Policy
- Capital Markets Integration (insurance, banking, supervision)
- Tax Harmonization
- Investment Agreements

V. The Economic and Social Impact of Integration (as defined in II, III and IV)

- human capital mobility
- civil society and trade
- regional integration on environmental issues
- Trade Patterns
- Production Patterns
- Growth
- Technology Diffusion and Productivity
- Industrial Location and Spatial Agglomeration
- FDI
- Income Distribution
- Migration and Remittances
- Employment
- Agriculture