

Programme

09.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome & Introduction
10.15 – 11.30	Workshops I
11.30 – 11.45	Tea + Coffee
11.45 – 13.00	Workshops II
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.15	Workshops III
15.15 – 16.30	Closing Plenary

Register now for the Latin America Dayschool

Pre-register to receive workshop papers *and other crucial material!!*
Send with cheque (payee CSC), to CSC, 72 High Storr's Rd, Sheffield S11 7LE

Name.....

Address.....

.....Tel.....

Advance registration: £5 waged; £2 unwaged (£7/£3 on day)

Registration fee:

Request from organisers: **bring packed lunch.** However, food is available from nearby cafés and sandwich shop.

Donation:

or... Register on-line! Visit Dayschool website – www.s-la.net

Check www.s-la.net for workshop papers & other dayschool info.

Dayschool on Latin America

Saturday 1st November 2008

- Celebrating 50 years of Cuban revolution
- Solidarity with Latin American resistance to neoliberalism, US-EU domination



Bolivians demanding a constituent assembly

Venue: Quaker Meeting House
St James St, S1, Sheffield

Organised by Sheffield Cuba Solidarity Campaign &
Sheffield Venezuela Information Centre

Latin America Dayschool 2008 is a celebration of remarkable social progress being made across the continent. For more than a century, the U.S.A. has treated the region as its 'backyard', installing military dictatorships and supervising the repression of progressive movements. The return of democracy in recent years has restored a degree of political sovereignty to the peoples of Latin America—but they have lost economic sovereignty, as market reforms imposed by the IMF have produced rising inequality and turned what was a US backyard into a free-for-all for US and European corporations.

Now, movements against this exploitation are

strengthening; many nations are fighting for the right to determine their own futures.

On 1 January 2009 Cubans will celebrate fifty years of their revolution, whose achievements include the eradication of illiteracy, a greater life expectancy than the US and full employment. Defying Washington's unwavering hostility and its economic blockade, Cuba continues to exercise in full its right to self-determination—and has made great efforts to help others do the same, from providing free primary healthcare to millions across the world, to helping defeat South Africa's invasion of Angola and thus hastening the end of apartheid. Contrary to media speculation, the end of Fidel Castro's presidency does not mean the end of Cuban socialism.

Latin America—intensifying struggle against imperialism, poverty and social exclusion

Venezuela has made great advances during Hugo Chávez' ten-year presidency. With the help of thousands of Cuban doctors, millions of poor Venezuelans now get medical care. By moving to end the foreign plunder of oil and other national resources, Venezuela has been able to fund education and rapidly reduce poverty. Refusing to accept multiple electoral victories, the U.S. seeks ways to undermine Venezuela's government, funding opposition parties and supporting an attempted coup in 2002.

In 2006 Evo Morales became Bolivia's first indigenous leader. So far, he has acted to take substantial natural gas reserves out of foreign

hands and use them to relieve extreme poverty, and moved to restore rights to the indigenous majority. In response, the US is working with right-wing forces to make the country ungovernable. Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador and others have joined together to form ALBA—the 'Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas'—to 'combat poverty and social exclusion' and further cooperation across the continent. The influence of this alliance is growing and other countries, such as Paraguay, Brazil and Chile, have started to signal their discontent with the status quo.

Latin America Dayschool 2008 is an opportunity to learn more about these developments and their great significance, not just for the Americas, but for the world.

Workshops

Some workshops will run twice. Presentations will be recorded for later download from www.s-la.net.

50 years of Cuban Revolution

- ◆ *What's next for Cuba: transition to capitalism or new stage in the revolution?*
- ◆ *Cuba: 50 years of Cuban revolution*
- ◆ *Cuban internationalism*

ALBA: Challenges and Achievements

- ◆ *Crisis of Neoliberalism and the rise of the Latin American left*
- ◆ *Bolivia: settler elite attempts to destabilise Evo Morales' government*
- ◆ *Venezuela: deepening polarisation, US hostility mark new stage of revolution*
- ◆ *Ecuador: people's movement advances*
- ◆ *Colombia: militarism, multinational plunder and social movement resistance*

Speakers so far confirmed...visit www.s-la.net for latest

Diego Almeida, member of MERU, the Ecuadorian movement in the UK.

Amancay, Bolivia Solidarity Campaign

Francisco Dominguez, Head of Centre for Latin American studies, Middlesex University, recently toured ALBA states as advisor to union delegation from *Unite*.

Jesús González, Counsellor for Economic Affairs, Cuban Embassy

Andy Higginbottom, senior lecturer, Kingston University, researching human rights and resource extraction in Latin America

Geraldine Lievesley, senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, author of 'The Cuban Revolution. Past, Present and Future Perspectives' (2003).

Steve Ludlam, Senior lecturer at University of Sheffield, currently researching workers rights in Cuba.

Emily Morris, Senior Research fellow, International Institute for the Study of Cuba, former Cuba editor, Economist Intelligence Unit

Ben Pearson, Colombia Solidarity Campaign

Alvaro Sanchez, Counsellor, Venezuelan Embassy

Jonathan Silberman, trade unionist & frequent visitor to Cuba

Steve Wilkinson, assistant director, International Institute for the Study of Cuba, former editor *Cuba Sí*.

"To the Cuban people internationalism is not only a word but something which they have put into practice for the benefit of large sectors of mankind..."



"... We admire the achievements of the Cuban revolution in the sphere of social welfare... your advances in the fields of health, education, and science... your affirmation of the historical connection to the continent and people of Africa... your consistent commitment to the systematic eradication of racism is unparalleled. But the most important lesson that you have for us is that no matter what the odds, no matter under what difficulties, you have had to struggle. There can be no surrender! It is a case of freedom or death!"

Nelson Mandela, Matanzas 1991



Cuban medical mission to 2005 Kashmir earthquake