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North American Studies Seminar Series

Hilary Term 2012

A Mutually Beneficial Relationship: Cuba and Canada since the Revolution and Today

Hal Klepak

Emeritus Professor of History, Royal Military College of Canada

Thursday, 23rd February

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Latin American Centre Seminar Room, 1 Church Walk

Cuba and Canada, uniquely in the hemisphere, have had a closer relationship since 1959 than the one they enjoyed before the Revolution. Why has a loyal NATO member, closely aligned on so many matters with the United States during and after the Cold War, found it so useful to develop and maintain a link with a country that chose a communist path, aligned itself closely with the USSR, and engaged in foreign policy initiatives which Ottawa so often decried? Why in turn did Havana seek the same 'correct' relationship with its 'neighbour from the far north,' largely capitalist and under heavy US influence, even when there were often costs to such a link? The evolution of this relationship, and its status today, tell us much about each country.