

SECTION NEWS

The China Factor in Mexico-U.S. Relations

LASA Section for Asia and the Americas

cultural centers. In addition to the *DeYoung* and *Asian Art* museums, it is also worth visiting the *California Academy of Sciences* and the *Arboretum*. Mainly it is just a beautiful place to walk around and feel temporarily removed from the City. More information on Golden Gate Park is available at <<http://www.golden-gate-park.com>>. Alcatraz is also a very interesting destination, both for historical reasons and for the views, although it is necessary to secure tickets in advance <<http://www.nps.gov/alca/index.htm>>.

Getting Around

Although San Francisco is relatively small, its large number of hills makes getting around a challenge. Public transit is provided by the city via Muni. This is an institution San Franciscans love to complain about, but it is really one of the best ways for visitors to get around the city. It is safe and offers transportation city-wide via buses, trolleys and the subway for a \$2 fare. You are allowed to transfer between most Muni lines during a two-hour period after the purchase of your fare. I've found that the best way to use Muni efficiently is to consult <nextmuni.com> for information on when the next bus or train is due to arrive at your location. Taxis are available as well, but they can rarely be hailed on the street outside of the immediate downtown area. It is best to call for one when you need it (415-333-3333). For longer-range local travel, BART trains depart for Berkeley and Oakland from the Powell/Market station near the conference hotel. For public transit to destinations south of San Francisco, Caltrain provides train service departing from 4th and Townsend streets, which is within walking distance of the hotel. ■

Sponsored by Open Society Foundations

Hosted by the Center for Latin American Studies

University of California-Berkeley

Tuesday May 22, 2012

This pre-Congress workshop will examine key challenges facing Mexico-U.S. relations in light of China's rise. Participants will discuss emerging tensions and policy approaches to trilateral engagement in two panels.

Panel 1: Trade. In 2010, Mexico recorded a \$93 billion merchandise trade surplus with the United States, a \$40 billion deficit with China, and a \$3.3 billion deficit with the world overall. Critics of NAFTA argue that overdependence on exports to the United States has impeded industrial innovation in Mexico and prevented Mexican authorities (public and private) from formulating coherent policies toward China. This panel examines how China's international trade and investment strategies are influencing Mexico's position in global production networks, how this is impacting U.S.-Mexico economic cooperation, and whether NAFTA may offer much-needed opportunities for improved trilateral cooperation engagement.

Panel 2: Policy. As China's trade and investment relations with the United States intensify, Mexico's advances, mistakes, and prospects in raising tariffs and building a "strategic partnership" with China may harbor useful lessons. U.S. policymakers may also draw lessons from the inability of their Mexican counterparts to stem the inflow of Chinese contraband, including via the United States. Is there any substance to recent media reports that this phenomenon is linked to the trafficking of arms into Mexico, and of drugs and people to the United States? How might policymakers in Mexico and the United States seek to harness the entrepreneurial capacities and international networks of resident Chinese communities for national benefit?

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