



SMU Mission Foods
Texas-Mexico Center

Presents

8TH ANNUAL INTEGRATION SYMPOSIUM

November 7, 2024

Dallas, TX

This year marks changes ahead both for the United States and Mexico, and with the results of each country's election, changes could also be reflected in the U.S.-Mexico relationship. Even after November 5, it will take time to better understand each country's standing regarding the review process of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA). Will the three countries agree to speedily ratify USMCA in 2026, or will we once again see lengthy negotiations in 2025?

Mexico is also undergoing a deep transformation of its judicial system. These profound changes, which on the surface seem to be a domestic matter, will end up touching all aspects of life in Mexico, including in taxation tribunals, local and state courts, and the elimination of *amparo* – which is a writ of protection – a very important legal resource that had existed and been used in Mexico by individuals and businesses alike. Sooner or later, these profound changes are bound to be felt by the country's number 1 trading partner, the United States. They will likely have an effect on the American companies responsible for the \$130 billion in foreign direct investment in the country, as well as on the nearly 2 million Americans living in the country.*

In this panorama of upcoming change, business continues in one place that is crucial for both countries: Texas. Trade between both countries totaled \$855 billion in 2022, and in 2023, Texas was the largest exporter of goods to Mexico and the largest importer of Mexican goods.* Texas also has almost half of the entire U.S.-Mexico border.

In our keynote program, we will explore why these issues of the U.S.-Mexico relationship are relevant and why it should matter more to Americans. In our panels, we will also explore what's happening in Texas in terms of trade and migration along the border.

Our latest research has been exploring two relevant topics that you will hear about in today's panels. In terms of trade, we know crime in Mexico has had an impact on both sides of the border. Our research fellows are exploring how to measure that impact and what are the recommendations to potentially drive down this factor to continue fostering bilateral trade.

On the migration side, Mexico has become a transit and recipient country, marking a stark contrast to its past as a country that only sent immigrants abroad. 2020 marked a change in U.S. policy which had an immediate impact in its southern neighbor. With little time to prepare, Mexico had to adapt to start being a receiving country, especially of asylum and refugee seekers, which was unusual in the U.S.-Mexico border before. At a time when federal governments in both countries are going through changes, how can states and local governments share cross-border practices that might lead to better border management?

Welcome to the SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center's 8th Annual Symposium.

*Data from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** Registration
- 9:30 – 9:33 a.m.** Welcome Remarks
- 9:33 – 10:45 a.m.** **PANEL I – Trade: Update on the Border Economy and Security Challenges to Trade**
- **Jesus Cañas**, Senior Business Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
 - **Rene Cabral**, Research Professor, Department of Finance and Business at EGADE Business School, Tecnológico de Monterrey
 - Discussant: Jennifer Apperti, Director, SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico
- 10:45 - 10:55 a.m.** Break
- 10:55 - 12:00 p.m.** **PANEL II – Migration: Possibilities along the Border: U.S.-Mexico Cooperation at State and Local Levels**
- **Isabel Gil Everaert**, Assistant Professor, Center for International Relations, School of Public Policy and social Sciences, (FCPS-UNAM)
 - **Narayani Lasala**, Professor and researcher, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE), Mexico City
 - Discussant: Elizabeth Russ, Chair World Languages and Literatures, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences
- 12:30 -2:00 p.m.** **Luncheon Keynote in collaboration with the SMU John G. Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs**
- **Antonio Garza**, Former United States Ambassador to Mexico
 - Discussant: **Pia Orrenius**, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- 2:00 p.m.** End of Event

PANEL I – Trade: Update on the Border Economy and Security Challenges to Trade



RENE CABRAL

RESEARCH PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND BUSINESS ECONOMICS
EGADE BUSINESS SCHOOL, TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

Dr. René Cabral Torres is a Professor of Economics and Finance at Tec de Monterrey's EGADE School in Monterrey, Mexico. His research focuses on macroeconomics and development. His academic work has been published in scholarly journals such as the European Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Development Studies, Empirical Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Economic Modeling, Contemporary Economic Modelling, and the North American Journal of Economics and Finance, among others. He has also worked as an economist for the Economic Research Department at Banco de Mexico and as a consultant for the World Bank.



JESUS CAÑAS

SENIOR BUSINESS ECONOMIST, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Jesus Cañas is a senior business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas where he analyzes regional economic growth. His research also focuses on issues pertaining to the Mexican economy, the U.S.–Mexico border economy and cross-border manufacturing. He has written articles for academic journals such as Annals of Regional Science and Growth and Change and co-edited Ten Gallon Economy: Sizing up Growth in Texas. His publication "Texas Border Cities Illustrate Benefits and Challenges of Trade" has been mentioned in the Wall Street Journal as well as in all major Texas newspapers. Cañas is a member of the Mission Foods Texas–Mexico Center Faculty Advisory Board at Southern Methodist University, charged with the task of improving the Texas–Mexico relationship in its economic, political, social, and cultural aspects. He is also an adjunct professor at Texas Christian University. He holds a BA in economics and finance and an MS in economics from the University of Texas at El Paso.



JENNIFER APPERTI

SMU MISSION FOODS TEXAS-MEXICO CENTER DIRECTOR

Jennifer Apperti is SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center's Director. Before her current role, she was the Manager of the center since 2016, managing research grants, projects and creating and executing its programming. Prior to joining SMU, she worked in public policy for ten years as a career diplomat for Mexico. She was the Economic and Cultural Attaché at the Consulate General of Mexico in Dallas from 2011-2016. Previously, she was the Political Affairs Officer at the Embassy of Mexico in Uruguay and Political Analyst at the Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the private sector, she worked in the export area of Palos Garza Freight Forwarding in Laredo, Texas and in the export department of M&G Polymers, one of the largest PET producers and exporters in Mexico. She holds a master's degree in Marketing from Charles III University of Madrid and an Advanced Marketing Certificate from SMU Cox School of Business, and a bachelor's degree in International Business with a minor in Marketing from Tec de Monterrey University in Mexico.

PANEL II – Migration: Possibilities along the Border: U.S.-Mexico Cooperation at State and Local Levels



ISABEL GIL EVERAERT

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SCHOOL OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNAM

Isabel Gil is an Assistant Professor at the Center For International Relations, School Of Political And Social Sciences at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (FCPS-UNAM). Before joining FCPS-UNAM, she was a postdoctoral researcher at El Colegio de México where she is an affiliated researcher at the Migration, Inequality and Public Policy Seminar. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY), a Masters in Humanities and Social Thought from New York University (NYU) and a B.A. in Political Science from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). Her work has been published in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, the Journal of Migration and Human Security, the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies (forthcoming), (Trans)fronteriza and Metropolitica among other places. Her main research interests are international migration and the impacts of restrictive migratory policies in the lives of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.



NARAYANI LASALA

PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER, CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y DOCENCIA ECONÓMICA (CIDE), MEXICO CITY

Narayani Lasala-Blanco is a full time Professor and researcher at CIDE in Mexico City. Previously she was an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University School of Politics and Global Studies and Political Science Department at the University of California (Santa Barbara), where she was also a Fellow at the Broom Center for Demography. She specializes in the areas of immigration and survey methods for hard-to-reach populations. Prior to ASU, Lasala-Blanco was a post doctoral fellow and Research Associate at Harvard University's Opinion Research Program (HORP) and Survey Director of the Robin Hood Foundation-Columbia Population Research Center's Poverty Tracker in New York City. She obtained her PhD in Political Science from Columbia University where she was a Fellow and Teaching Assistant to Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz. She is the principal investigator of several multi city projects including the European Cities Survey, the American Cities Survey and Border Cities Cooperation.



ELIZABETH RUSS

CHAIR WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, DEDMAN COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

Dr. Russ is an Associate Professor of Spanish. She also teaches one course on the city of Dallas and one examining the long history between Mexico and the United States, with a focus on Texas and, especially, Dallas. Her book, *The Plantation in the Postslavery Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2009), examines the plantation, that physical place most vividly associated with slavery in the Americas, as a vexing rhetorical, ideological, and psychological trope through which intersecting histories of the New World have been told. She has Ph.D, M.Phil and an M.A. degrees from Columbia University. Dr. Russ is currently working on a second book, which analyzes representations of gender, race, and national identity in 20th-century literature written by women from the Dominican Republic.

Luncheon Keynote in collaboration with the SMU John G. Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs



ANTONIO GARZA
FORMER UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO

Antonio Garza acts as Counsel to White & Case in Mexico City and served as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 2002 through 2009. Prior to serving as the U.S. Ambassador Mr. Garza was chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, Texas' 99th Secretary of State and a South Texas County Judge. Garza is currently a Trustee at Southern Methodist University, serves as a Director to the George W. Bush Foundation, is Chairman of the Bush Center's Advisory Council and is a director to both publicly traded and privately held companies. Garza holds a BBA from The University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Southern Methodist University School of Law. He has been honored as a distinguished alumnus at both institutions and inducted into the McCombs School of Business Hall of Fame.



PIA ORRENIUS
VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Pia Orrenius is a labor economist working on regional economic growth and demographic change. She manages the regional and microeconomics group in the Dallas Fed Research Department, is executive editor of the quarterly publication *Southwest Economy* and co-edited *Ten Gallon Economy: Sizing up Economic Growth in Texas* (2015, Palgrave MacMillan). Her academic research focuses on the labor market impacts of immigration, unauthorized immigration and U.S. immigration policy. She is coauthor of the book *Beside the Golden Door: U.S. Immigration Reform in a New Era of Globalization*. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs and the Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center. Orrenius was senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President, Washington D.C., where she advised the Bush administration on labor, health, and immigration issues.

SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center

The Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center is an action-oriented, research policy center looking to understand and explore the dynamic political, cultural, economic and business relationship between Texas and Mexico. Through research, the Center seeks to produce actionable ideas and policy recommendations that address current issues that impact the bilateral relationship.

This Center is made possible by GRUMA-Mission Foods. Their support of the Center includes promoting research based on the areas of the bilateral Texas-Mexico relationship, with a special focus on:

- Trade and Investment
- Energy
- Migration
- Border Issues
- Human Capital and Development



**You can access the Center's research
following the QR Code.**

SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center

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