

MARIA C. WERLAU

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

Co-founder and Executive Director, *Free Society Project, Inc.*, a.k.a. *Cuba Archive*, registered in Washington, DC in 2001. The non-profit think tank is dedicated to advancing human rights primarily through research and publications.

Independent scholar/Analyst/Writer. Expert in Cuban affairs and author of numerous publications in English and Spanish on wide-ranging topics —economic and financial issues, health, security, human rights, international law, policy, and others. Regular speaker at academic events. Has lectured at universities in several countries and provided expert testimony on Cuba to the US Congress, the Organization of American States' Permanent Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the European Parliament.

Media commentator

Radio and TV programs including *CNN Español*, *CNN Plus* (Spain), CNBC, PBS, National Public Radio, Voice of America, France 24, NTN24, and many others. Frequently cited by major news outlets of the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Published Opinion Editorials in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Sun*, *The Miami Herald*, *ABC*, *El País*, and *Infobae*.

Consultant

A/k/a Orbis International, specialized in advisories on international affairs, communications, country risk analysis, and special projects.

Other. Cuba Art New York (Board of Directors), Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (member, former Board of Directors), Greenwich Condominium Association (Treasurer). Was part of the Council of Foreign Relations' Independent Task Force on US-Cuba Relations and the American Enterprise Institute's Task Force on US-Cuba Relations.

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Orbis S.A Founder and President of a firm incorporated in Chile offering cross-cultural, relocation, and executive services for major U.S. and Canadian multinationals in Chile, 1992-1997.

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. Second Vice President. Corporate Relationship Manager, Venezuela; Team Leader of the Financial Institutions Division, Puerto Rico; Corporate Credit & Marketing Officer, Puerto Rico; and Corporate Trainee/Financial Analyst, Western Hemisphere Credit Training Program, 1981-1985.

News and policy analyst in international affairs for the weekly radio program "La Noticia por Dentro" ("Inside the News"), for Radio Martí, a Voice of America sister station, 2004-2007.

EDUCATION

Masters in International Relations, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile (Summa cum laude). Dissertation (in Spanish): “The role of international banks in Latin America debt crises.”

Bachelor of Science in Comparative and Regional Studies specialized in Latin America, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (Cum Laude).

Certificate in English to Spanish Translator. School of Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Transitional Justice courses

- “Transitional Justice Essentials Course,” International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), June 1-3, 2009, New York.
- “Negotiating Peace and Justice: A Course on the Place of Transitional Justice in Peace Processes,” International Center for Transitional Justice and Barcelona International Peace Resource Center, Barcelona, June 6-10, 2016.
- “Amassing Evidence: Applying Information Technology and Forensic Science in Human Rights Documentation,” Transitional Justice Working Group and the United Nations Human Rights Office, Seoul, July 25-27, 2017.

OTHER

- Bilingual in English and Spanish; intermediate fluency in French.
- Overseas living experiences in Chile, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico.
- Extensive international travel.
- Longtime resident of New Jersey, in the New York City metropolitan area, currently living between Miami, Florida, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.