The U.S.-Mexico relationship is again going through a period of uncertainty. Such phases are not new. What is new today are the dramatic changes that the two countries are going through socially, economically, and politically. These changes are sufficiently profound to determine the relationship for these two previously distant neighbors well into the 21st century. In effect, although in other contexts nationally-contained dynamics may be independent of one another, when it comes to the United States and Mexico, drastic changes within country often straddle the border. This talk focuses on the major drivers of the binational relationship into the future, attempting to forecast how these major drivers will change over time and what they will mean for the two countries in the coming decades.

The conversation goes through some of the major shifts in both societies, arguing that, despite their apparent restiveness, the two countries are destined for increased integration. The key to this will be to manage this integration in a way that benefits both peoples.