

Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



"Race, Negrismo, and Rehabilitated Prostitutes: Self-Styled Revolutionaries, & Unintended Dissidence in the Cuban Revolution"

Lecture by Lillian Guerra

November 2, 2012 | 4PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | DM190

In the late 1960s, Cuba's Ministry of the Interior coordinated a mass campaign against juvenile delinquency that disproportionately targeted black youth. At the same time, black filmmakers, writers, and intellectuals attacked contemporary racism by exposing the reproduction and celebration of white cultural superiority and European aesthetics in revolutionary policy and ideology. As young Communists, these activists challenged official discourse and representations of revolutionary life, seeking to expand the boundaries of liberation and fulfill their role as a "vanguard" of change; however, the state responded to their efforts with censorship, scorn, and, in some cases, detention. Ironically, the nature and content of these black revolutionaries' activism remains as unknown and ignored as the story of their repression.

Lillian Guerra is an Associate Professor of Cuban and Caribbean history at the University of Florida. She holds a doctoral degree in Modern Latin American History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is the author of many scholarly essays on the Cuban Republic, the Cuban Revolution, the Cold War in Latin America, and has published three books of history, *Popular Expression and National Identity in Puerto Rico* (1998), *The Myth of José Martí: Conflicting Nationalisms in Early Twentieth-Century Cuba* (2005) and *Visions of Power: Revolution, Redemption, and Resistance in Cuba, 1959-1971* (2012). Dr. Guerra is a recipient of numerous honors and awards.

Event is free and open to the public. For additional information and to RSVP call CRI at (305) 348-2894

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