Cuba is a multiethnic and multiracial society with a population of mainly Spanish and African origins. The island imported more than 600,000 African slaves during the 19th century. Some 150,000 Chinese contract workers traveled to Cuba between 1846 and 1874. About 785,000 Spaniards and 311,000 immigrants from other Caribbean islands (especially Haiti and Jamaica) arrived in Cuba between 1902 and 1933. Smaller numbers of Jewish, Arab, and Japanese immigrants settled on the island during the first half of the 20th century.

This panel discussion will gather experts on various ethnic minorities in Cuba to address the following questions: How did ethnic prejudice and racial discrimination shape each group's incorporation into Cuban society? To what extent were immigrants and their descendants from diverse origins able to overcome such hurdles? How did different ethnic and racial groups contribute to the development of contemporary Cuban culture? What is the status of the immigrants' descendants in Cuba today?

**Panelists**

**Evelyn Hu-Dehart**
Professor of History and Director, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University

"Un barrio chino sin chinos: Where Did the Chinese in Cuba Come from and Where Did They Go?"

**Ruth Behar**
Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan

"My Ancestors' Keys: In Search of the Jews of Cuba"

**John Ermer**
Ph.D. candidate in History, Florida International University

"Turcos y moros: Lebanese and Syrian Migrants in Cuba"

**Elisa Rómulo**
Ph.D. student in Anthropology, Florida International University

"Creating the Cuban Identity: Sociocultural Contributions of Japanese and Okinawan Descendants"

This event is free and open to the public.