

Cuban Research Institute
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University

Twelfth Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies



*Cuba and Puerto Rico:
Two Wings of One Bird?*

*Cuba y Puerto Rico:
¿De un pájaro las dos alas?*

Dedicated to Emilio Cueto

Modesto A. Maidique Campus
Graham Center
February 14–15, 2019

WELCOMING REMARKS

Welcome to the Twelfth Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies! Since 1997, the Cuban Research Institute (CRI) of Florida International University (FIU) has organized this meeting, which has become the largest international gathering of scholars specializing in Cuba and its diaspora. From the beginning, the Institute has welcomed the submission of panels and papers on any aspect of Cuban and Cuban-American history, economy, politics, society, culture, and creative expressions, while focusing on a topic of interdisciplinary interest. This year, the main theme of our conference revolves around “Cuba and Puerto Rico: Two Wings of One Bird?”

In 1893, the Puerto Rican poet Lola Rodríguez de Tió (1843–1924) published her patriotic text, “To Cuba.” In this poem, she wrote: “Cuba and Puerto Rico are / two wings of one bird / they receive flowers or bullets / in the same heart.” Our conference takes Rodríguez de Tió’s memorable metaphor of the “two wings of one bird” as a cue for comparative inquiry and academic reflection. Our main theme, the relations between Cuba and Puerto Rico, invites interdisciplinary approaches to the multiple, complex, and sometimes contrasting links between the two countries, both historically and in current times. Although we welcomed discussions about the recent situation and the future of Cuba and Puerto Rico, we called for a thorough retrospective examination of the social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of the intertwined histories of the two countries. We were especially interested in assessing the contribution of the islands’ diasporas to the growing “Latinization” of the United States, particularly in Florida.

This program shows the wealth, breadth, and diversity of recent scholarship, conceptual approaches, and academic debates in Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, as well as in the related field of Puerto Rican Studies. The topics under discussion will range widely from the natural history of Cuba and Puerto Rico to contemporary documentary film; from ethnoreligious minorities to the prospects of economic cooperation between the two islands; from the impacts of hurricanes Irma and María to the cultural identities of second-generation Cuban Americans and Puerto Ricans in the United States. The conference brings together more than 180 specialists in various disciplines, including literary criticism, history, economics, music, political science, sociology, anthropology, law, and biology. The program includes scholars from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, as well as Cuba, Spain, Germany, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, Israel, and South Korea.

Once again, the conference has gathered renowned experts on the Cuban and Cuban-American experience, such as Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Cristóbal Díaz Ayala, Emilio Cueto, Alejandro Portes, Silvia Pedraza, Lisandro Pérez, Guillermo Grenier, Susan Eckstein, Andrea O’Reilly Herrera, Iraida López, Alan West-Durán, Jorge Camacho, Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Gerardo González Núñez, Bert Hoffmann, Ana Menéndez, and Lillian Guerra. In addition, this year’s program features distinguished scholars in the field of Puerto Rican Studies, among them Francisco Scarano, Silvia Alvarez Curbelo, Julio Ramos, Edgardo Meléndez, Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Agustín Laó-Montes, Blanca Ortiz-Torres, Carmen Haydée Rivera, Arlene Díaz, César Salgado, and Jorge Giovannetti. Many younger scholars and graduate students are also participating in our gathering.

As usual, I'm happy to acknowledge the cosponsorship of this conference by FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center. I also want to recognize the efficient support of CRI's staff in planning and organizing our meeting: Sebastián Arcos, Associate Director; Aymee Correa, Public Affairs Manager; Paola Salavarría, Program Assistant; Alfredo González, Temporary Assistant; Ashley Núñez, Temporary Assistant; and Thalia Paulete, College Work Study.

This year, we're glad to count on the collaboration of María Carla Chicuéñ, Executive Director of CasaCuba, and her graduate assistant, Maite Morales. CasaCuba is an exciting new initiative to build a global center at FIU on Cuban affairs and culture through education, discussion, research, and the arts. We look forward to working closely with María Carla to implement the vision and mission of CasaCuba.

I thank all the conference participants for your interest and support, and hope you have a productive experience during our two-day meeting.



Jorge Duany, Ph.D.
Director and Professor
Cuban Research Institute
Florida International University

PALABRAS DE BIENVENIDA

¡Bienvenidos a la Duodécima Conferencia de Estudios Cubanos y Cubanoamericanos! Desde 1997, el Instituto de Investigaciones Cubanas (CRI, por sus siglas en inglés) de la Universidad Internacional de la Florida (FIU) ha organizado este evento, que se ha convertido en el mayor encuentro internacional de estudiosos especializados en Cuba y su diáspora. Desde el principio, el Instituto ha aceptado paneles y ponencias sobre cualquier aspecto de la historia, economía, política, sociedad, cultura y expresiones creativas cubanas y cubanoamericanas, a la vez que se ha enfocado en un asunto de interés interdisciplinario. Este año, el tema central de nuestra conferencia gira en torno a “Cuba y Puerto Rico: ¿De un pájaro las dos alas?”

En 1893, la poeta puertorriqueña Lola Rodríguez de Tió (1843–1924) publicó su texto patriótico, “A Cuba”. En este poema, escribió: “Cuba y Puerto Rico son / de un pájaro las dos alas / reciben flores o balas / sobre el mismo corazón”. Nuestra conferencia retoma la memorable metáfora “de un pájaro las dos alas” de Rodríguez de Tió como punto de partida para la indagación comparativa y la reflexión académica. Nuestro tema central, las relaciones entre Cuba y Puerto Rico, invita acercamientos interdisciplinarios a los lazos múltiples, complejos y a veces contrastantes entre los dos países, tanto históricamente como en el presente. Aunque le dimos la bienvenida a discusiones sobre el estado reciente y futuro de las relaciones entre Cuba y Puerto Rico, convocamos a examinar retrospectiva y sistemáticamente las dimensiones sociales, económicas, políticas y culturales de las historias entrelazadas de los dos países. Nos interesaba especialmente sopesar la contribución de las diásporas de ambas islas a la creciente “latinización” de Estados Unidos, particularmente la Florida.

El programa muestra la riqueza, amplitud y diversidad de las investigaciones recientes, los enfoques conceptuales y los debates académicos en los estudios cubanos y cubanoamericanos, así como en el campo relacionado de los estudios puertorriqueños. Los asuntos bajo discusión fluctuarán extensamente desde la historia natural de Cuba y Puerto Rico hasta el cine documental contemporáneo; desde las minorías etnorreligiosas hasta las posibilidades de cooperación económica entre los dos países; desde los impactos de los huracanes María e Irma hasta las identidades culturales de la segunda generación de cubanos y puertorriqueños en Estados Unidos. La conferencia reúne a más de 180 especialistas en diversas disciplinas, entre ellas la crítica literaria, la historia, la economía, la música, la ciencia política, la sociología, la antropología, el derecho y la biología. El programa incluye a investigadores de distintas partes de Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico, así como de Cuba, España, Alemania, Uruguay, Chile, Brasil, Israel y Corea del Sur.

Una vez más, la conferencia ha congregado a renombrados expertos en la experiencia cubana y cubanoamericana, entre los que se destacan Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Cristóbal Díaz Ayala, Emilio Cueto, Alejandro Portes, Silvia Pedraza, Lisandro Pérez, Guillermo Grenier, Susan Eckstein, Andrea O'Reilly Herrera, Iraida López, Alan West-Durán, Jorge Camacho, Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Gerardo González Núñez, Bert Hoffmann, Ana Menéndez y Lillian Guerra. Además, el programa de este año incluye a distinguidos académicos en el campo de los estudios puertorriqueños, tales como Francisco Scarano, Silvia Alvarez Curbelo, Julio Ramos, Edgardo Meléndez, Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Agustín Laó-Montes, Blanca Ortiz-Torres, Carmen

Haydée Rivera, Arlene Díaz, César Salgado y Jorge Giovannetti. Muchos estudiosos más jóvenes y estudiantes de posgrado también participarán en este encuentro.

Como de costumbre, me complace consignar el coauspicio de esta conferencia por parte del Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño Kimberly Green de FIU. También quisiera reconocer el eficiente apoyo del personal del CRI: Sebastián Arcos, Director Asociado; Aymee Correa, Gerente de Asuntos Públicos; Paola Salavarría, Asistente de Programa; Alfredo González, Asistente Temporal; Ashley Núñez, Asistente Temporal y Thalia Paulete, Estudiante de Estudio y Trabajo.

Este año, tenemos el gusto de contar con la colaboración de María Carla Chicuén, Directora Ejecutiva de CasaCuba, y su asistente graduada, Maite Morales. CasaCuba es una nueva y prometedora iniciativa para construir un centro global en FIU sobre los asuntos y la cultura cubanas a través de la educación, la discusión, la investigación y las artes. Nos entusiasma la idea de trabajar de cerca con María Carla para poner en práctica la visión y misión de CasaCuba.

Agradezco a todos los participantes en la conferencia por su interés y apoyo y espero que tengan una experiencia provechosa durante nuestra reunión de dos días.



Jorge Duany, Ph.D.
Director y Catedrático
Instituto de Investigaciones Cubanas
Universidad Internacional de la Florida

DEDICATION

Emilio Cueto



The Cuban Research Institute is pleased to dedicate its Twelfth Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies to Emilio Cueto, in honor of his multiple contributions to studying, preserving, and promoting Cuba's cultural heritage.

Emilio Cueto is a Cuban-American attorney, collector, and independent scholar. A retired lawyer based in Washington, D.C., Cueto previously worked for the Inter-American Development Bank. He earned his J.D. at Fordham University Law School. He also holds an M.A. in Political Science from Columbia University and a B.A. in Political Science from the Catholic University of America. He earned his high school degree from Colegio Belén in Havana, after which he moved to the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan.

Cueto is an internationally recognized expert on Cuban culture and history, especially colonial graphic art and music. An avid seeker and guardian of Cuban memorabilia, he presently holds in his home one of the largest private collections in the world of Cuban-related material, including newspapers, maps, artworks, books, prints, scores, LPs, videos, and posters. His collection is widely known as *La Emilioteca*.

Cueto is the author of numerous books about Cuba, in both English and Spanish, including *Cien barcos en la historia de Cuba* (2018); *Cuba en/in the USA* (2018); *Las litografías santiagueras del Departamento Oriental de la isla de Cuba* (2014); *La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre en el alma del pueblo cubano* (2014); *Cuba's Flora and Fauna* (2002); *Cuba in Old Maps* (1999); and *Mialhe's Colonial Cuba* (1994).

Cueto's work appears in chapters of books such as *Picturing Cuba: Art, Culture, and Identity on the Island and in the Diaspora* (forthcoming); *Madrid habanece: Cuba y España en el punto de mira transatlántico* (2011); *Paseo pintoresco por la Isla de Cuba* (1999); and *Narrativa y libertad: Cuentos cubanos de la diáspora* (1996). He has also published articles in periodicals

such as *Cuban Studies*, *Diario Las Américas*, *Espacio Laical*, *Herencia*, *El Nuevo Herald*, *Opus Habana*, *Palabra Nueva*, and *Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional José Martí*. In addition, he has organized six concerts related to Cuban music at Florida International University.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019					
	EAST BALLROOM	CENTER BALLROOM	WEST BALLROOM	GRAHAM CENTER 150	GRAHAM CENTER 355
8:30–9:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast at the Graham Center Foyer				
9:00–10:45 a.m.	Panel 1 <i>(Re)construcciones extranacionales de Cuba en el campo cultural de América Latina</i>	Panel 2 <i>Afrofronteras, solidaridades y soberanías</i>	Panel 3 “Haremos el hombre del siglo XXI: nosotros mismos.” <i>Revisiting El Hombre Nuevo Sixty Years after the Revolution</i>	Panel 4 <i>Continuing Legacies of Cubanidad through the Second Generation: Claiming Identity, Language, and Community in Diaspora</i>	Panel 5 <i>Cuba under the Castros: Civil Society, Dissidence, Diaspora, and Détente</i>
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Break				
11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.		Panel 6 <i>Plenary Session: Revisiting the Historical, Cultural, and Political Links between Cuba and Puerto Rico</i>			

12:45–2:00 p.m.	Lunch				
2:00–3:45 p.m.	Panel 7 <i>Teatro caribeño: Cuba y Puerto Rico</i>	Panel 8 <i>The Natural History of Cuba: Historical and Environmental Biology Perspectives</i>	Panel 9 <i>Insular Dialogue: Women and the Discourse of Political Transformation in Cuba and Puerto Rico</i>	Panel 10 <i>Imagining the “Patria”: The Cuban and Puerto Rican Émigré Communities in 19th-Century New York City</i>	Panel 11 <i>Cuba and Puerto Rico—Going Forward</i>
3:45–4:00 p.m.	Break				
4:00–5:45 p.m.	Panel 12 <i>A View from the Margins: Ethnoreligious Minorities in 20th- and 21st-Century Cuba and Puerto Rico</i>	Panel 13 <i>Roundtable: Cuba y Puerto Rico en las encuestas</i>	Panel 14 <i>Law, Legal Culture, and National Identity in Cuba, 1898–1980</i>	Panel 15 <i>Puerto Rico and Cuba’s Connections and Misencounters: Pablo de la Torriente Brau, the Isle of Pines, and the Cold War</i>	Panel 16 <i>The Cuban Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspectives</i>
6:00–7:30 p.m.	Welcoming Reception and Dedication at the Faculty Club (Graham Center 118)				

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019					
	EAST BALLROOM	CENTER BALLROOM	WEST BALLROOM	GRAHAM CENTER 150	GRAHAM CENTER 355
8:30–9:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast at the Graham Center Foyer				
9:00–10:45 a.m.	<p>Panel 17 <i>Critical Approaches to Cuban and Puerto Rican Literature</i></p>	<p>Panel 18 <i>Rethinking the Boundaries of Diaspora or Holding Up a Mirror to Cuban Migration</i></p>	<p>Panel 19 <i>Cuba no tiene una sola voz: Personas, ruinas, poesía, exilio, denuncia política y entropía en la obra cinematográfica de Eliecer Jiménez Almeida</i></p>	<p>Panel 20 <i>Cuba and Puerto Rico during the Cold War Era</i></p>	<p>Panel 21 <i>Racial and National Identities in Cuba and Puerto Rico</i></p>
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Break				
11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	<p>Panel 22 <i>Raza, sexo y nación en el imaginario finisecular cubano (siglos XIX–XX)</i></p>	<p>Panel 23 <i>Roundtable: Construyendo la CasaCuba</i></p>	<p>Panel 24 <i>Músicas en múltiples orillas: Music Interactions and Exchanges between Cuba and Puerto Rico</i></p>	<p>Panel 25 <i>Nuevas tendencias en el audiovisual cubano contemporáneo</i></p>	<p>Panel 26 <i>La maldita circunstancia: Pan-Caribbean Borders in the Wake of Disaster</i></p>
12:45–2:00 p.m.	Lunch				
2:00–3:45 p.m.	Panel 27	Panel 28	Panel 29	Panel 30	Panel 31

	<i>Race, Space, and Nationalism in Miami, Cuba, and Puerto Rico</i>	<i>The Economy of Cuba on the 60th Anniversary of the Revolution</i>	<i>Sujetos marginados, nación e identidad en el Caribe: Criterios desde el diálogo poético y novelesco</i>	<i>Music, Tradition, and Performance in Cuba and Puerto Rico</i>	<i>From Pre-Conquest to Revolutionary Times: Historical Perspectives on Cuba and Puerto Rico</i>
3:45–4:00 p.m.	Break				
4:00–5:45 p.m.	Panel 32 <i>Political and Cultural Dimensions of Cuban Migration Patterns</i>	Panel 33 <i>Documenting and Comparing the Cultural Practices of Cuba and Puerto Rico</i>	Panel 34 <i>Problemas sociales y políticas públicas en la Cuba contemporánea</i>	Panel 35 <i>Expressions of Cuban National Identity in Literature, Popular Culture, and the Media</i>	Panel 36 <i>Contemporary Cuban Arts: Film, Dance, and Photography</i>
7:00–8:30 p.m.		Panel 37 <i>Roundtable: Collecting Cuba: A Conversation with Emilio Cueto</i>			

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

8:30–9:00 a.m.

GRAHAM CENTER FOYER
Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00–10:45 a.m.

EAST BALLROOM

Panel 1: (Re)Construcciones extranacionales de Cuba en el campo cultural de América Latina

Chair: Dainerys Machado Vento, University of Miami

Cuba vista por los intelectuales mexicanos en el exilio a principios del siglo XX

Salvador García Rodríguez, CONACYT/University of Miami

Diálogos continentales: Dramaturgos cubanos en antologías de teatro latinoamericano

Ernesto Fundora, University of Miami

La escena teatral y el archivo: Documentar y actuar la diáspora cubana

Lilianne Lugo Herrera, University of Miami

¿Un canon literario cubano? Escisiones de la ficción cubana en el siglo XXI

Dainerys Machado Vento, University of Miami

Discussant: Marivi Véliz, University of Miami

9:00–10:45 a.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 2: Afrofronteras, solidaridades y soberanías

Chair: Alan West-Durán, Northeastern University

The Politics of Sound, Noise, and Music: Allora and Calzadilla Crossing Borders

Alan West-Durán, Northeastern University

Sotero Figueroa y el separatismo afrocubarriqueño

César Salgado, University of Texas, Austin

Morenos en la costa: La Liga Antillana contra el imperio y la patria chica criolla

José F. Buscaglia, Northeastern University

Cómo NO construir un personaje negro en la literatura cubana contemporánea

Odette Casamayor-Cisneros, University of Connecticut

Discussant: Mabel Cuesta, University of Houston

9:00–10:45 a.m.

WEST BALLROOM

**Panel 3: “Haremos el hombre del siglo XXI: nosotros mismos.”
Revisiting *El Hombre Nuevo* Sixty Years after the Revolution**

Chair: Emma Merrigan, Washington University, St. Louis

*Of Souls, Skins, and Leopard Prints: Queer and Animal Creations
of Cubanbeings*

Christina García, College of Charleston

*Che Guevara as Supercrip: Disability in Official Revolutionary
Discourse of the Zafra*

Emma Merrigan, Washington University, St. Louis

*The New-ish Man: Examining (Re)Configurations of Masculinity
in LBGTQ Cuban Cinema*

Dara E. Goldman, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

*“Pinguero palestino”: Hunger and Duality in Havana’s
Borderlands*

Karina L. Céspedes, Colorado State University

Discussant: Mónica Simal, Providence College

9:00–10:45 a.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

**Panel 4: Continuing Legacies of *Cubanidad* through the Second
Generation: Claiming Identity, Language, and Community in
Diaspora**

Chair: Andrea O’Reilly Herrera, University of Colorado,
Colorado Springs

Second-Generation Cuban Americans in Chicago

Madelina Núñez, Purdue University

*Diasporic Religious Practices and Cuban Identity in the Second
Generation: A Narrative Inquiry into the Role of Catholicism in
Continuing Legacies of Cubanidad*

Natasha Pérez, University of Houston

*Family, Diaspora, and Language: Building Transnational Ties
among Second-Generation Cubans in Miami*

Maria Yakushkina, Purdue University

Discussant: Andrea O'Reilly Herrera, University of Colorado,
Colorado Springs

9:00–10:45

GRAHAM CENTER 355

**Panel 5: Cuba under the Castros: Civil Society, Dissidence,
Diaspora, and Détente**

Chair: Frank Mora, Florida International University

*Evaluating Castro's Cuba, Franco's Spain, and Pinochet's Chile:
Economic, Social, and Political Indicators*

Alfred G. Cuzán, University of West Florida

*Exit, Voice, and Social Contract in the Contemporary Cuban
Diaspora*

Pedro Isern Munne, Universidad ORT, Uruguay

Reina Peñate de Tito, prisionera política cubana

Ivette Pérez Vega, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

*The Obama Administration's Cuban Policy Shift: A Levels-of-
Analysis Assessment of the U.S.-Cuban Détente*

Adam Ratzlaff, Florida International University

Vulnerable Voices of Cuban Civil Society

María Isabel Alfonso, St. Joseph's College

10:45–11:00 a.m.

BREAK

11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

**Panel 6: Plenary Session: Revisiting the Historical, Cultural,
and Political Links between Cuba and Puerto Rico**

Chair: Astrid Arrarás, Florida International University

*¿La isla que se repite? Contrapuntos cubanopuertorriqueños entre
la Guerra Fría y el reencuentro*

Francisco Scarano, University of Wisconsin, Madison

*Passive Puerto Rico and Revolutionary Cuba? Myths, Realities,
and the Optics of History*

Lillian Guerra, University of Florida

*“Las dos efímeras alas del ángel del amor”: Fantasías
archipelágicas en la narrativa de Lourdes Casal y Manuel Ramos
Otero*

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, University of Miami

A Tale of Two Cities: Cubans in Miami, Puerto Ricans in Orlando
Jorge Duany, Florida International University

12:45–2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

2:00–3:45 p.m.

EAST BALLROOM

Panel 7: Teatro caribeño: Cuba y Puerto Rico

Chair: Maida Watson, Florida International University

Teatro ritual afrocaribeño: Tun, tun de cielo y tierra de Alina Subirá y María Antonia de Eugenio Hernández Espinosa
Jeniffer Fernández, Florida International University

El teatro de Carlos Felipe: Poder, identidad y memoria en su representación

Ivonne O. López Arenal, Florida International University

El personaje femenino en la obra Réquiem por Yarini del dramaturgo cubano Carlos Felipe

Ramón Muñiz Sarmiento, Florida International University

Espacio dramático y espacio psíquico en la obra puertorriqueña Los soles truncos, de René Marqués, y la cubana La noche de los asesinos, de José Triana

Maida Watson, Florida International University

2:00–3:45 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 8: The Natural History of Cuba: Historical and Environmental Biology Perspectives

Chair: Javier Francisco-Ortega, Florida International University

Past, Present, and Future of Cuban Coral Reefs

Alain Duran and Ligia Collado-Vides, Florida International University; and Patricia González-Díaz, University of Havana

Exploring Paradise: A Natural History Collaboration Circuit between Puerto Rico and Cuba in the 19th Century

Eugenio Santiago-Valentín, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Specimens of the Plants and Fruits of the Island of Cuba: An Unpublished Manuscript of Botanical Illustrations

Emilio Cueto, independent scholar

Tropical Orchids in Southern Florida and Cuba: The Benefits of Research for Local and Regional Conservation
Haydee Borrero and Hong Liu, Florida International University

El género Zamia en Cuba: Diversidad, ecología y conservación
Michael Calonje, Montgomery Botanical Center; Ramona Oviedo, Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Havana; Lisbet González-Oliva y Gabriel Brull, Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Havana; y Javier Francisco-Ortega, Florida International University/Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden

2:00–3:45 p.m.

WEST BALLROOM

Panel 9: Insular Dialogue: Women and the Discourse of Political Transformation in Cuba and Puerto Rico

Chair: Adriana Novoa, University of South Florida

Representaciones de la maternidad lésbica en el cine de Cuba y Puerto Rico

Mabel Cuesta, University of Houston

Dinamitando los límites del cuerpo y de la isla: Un acercamiento a las obras de Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro y Legna Rodríguez Iglesias
Mónica Simal, Providence College

Emancipatory Sexual Politics: The Assemblage of Belonging in the Thought of Luisa Capetillo and Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta
Stephanie Rivera-Berruz, Marquette University

María Zambrano entre Cuba y Puerto Rico: Sus sororidades antillanas

Madeline Cámara, University of South Florida

Discussant: Adriana Novoa, University of South Florida

2:00–3:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

Panel 10: Imagining the “Patria”: The Cuban and Puerto Rican Émigré Communities in 19th-Century New York City

Chair: Arlene J. Díaz, Indiana University

Exile, Medicine, and Nationalism: Cuban Physicians in 19th-Century New York City

John A. Gutiérrez, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Cuban and Puerto Rican Exiles in 19th-Century New York City: Political Organization and Community Development

Edgardo Meléndez, Hunter College, CUNY

Narratives of Nation, Race, Manhood, and Politics in Cuban and Puerto Rican Exile Communities in Late 19th-Century New York City

Arlene J. Díaz, Indiana University

The Harlem of the Club Las Dos Antillas: Race, Space, and Politics in Early Antillean New York

Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, University of Michigan

Discussant: Lisandro Pérez, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

2:00–3:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 355

Panel 11: Cuba and Puerto Rico—Going Forward

Chair: Gary H. Maybarduk, U.S. Foreign Service

Sponsor: Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

Cuba-Estados Unidos-Puerto Rico: La ecuación turística

Gerardo González Núñez, Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico

Cuban Monetary Unification: Will the Cuban Peso Survive?

Roberto Orro, Caribbean Analysis Unit, Puerto Rico Area

Guantánamo and Puerto Rico: The Historical Connection

Stephen Schwab, University of Alabama

Cuba y Puerto Rico: Hacia una complementación económica necesaria

Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo, Cuba

Cuba's Political and Economic Arteriosclerosis—It Is Not Just the Castros

Gary H. Maybarduk, U.S. Foreign Service

Discussant: Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan

3:45–4:00 p.m.

BREAK

4:00–5:45 p.m.

EAST BALLROOM

Panel 12: A View from the Margins: Ethnoreligious Minorities in 20th and 21st-Century Cuba and Puerto Rico

Chair: Evelyn Dean-Olmsted, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras/Florida International University

Colonia libanesa: Identity and Citizenship in the Cuban Mahjar, 1880–1970

John Ermer, Florida International University

Identity Canceled Out: Being Cuban-Jewish in the Poetry of José Kozer

Paul B. Miller, Vanderbilt University

Identity Practices and Narratives among Puerto Rican Converts to Islam

Juan F. Caraballo-Resto, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey

Opening the Soul of the Nation: Narratives of Discovery and Transformation among Puerto Rican “Jews-by-Choice”

Evelyn Dean-Olmsted, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras/Florida International University

4:00–5:45 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 13: Roundtable: Cuba y Puerto Rico en las encuestas

Chair: Elaine Acosta González, Florida International University

Participants

Guillermo J. Grenier, Florida International University

Eduardo Gamarra, Florida International University

Elaine Acosta González, Florida International University

Pablo Díaz Espí, *Diario de Cuba*

Salvador Pascual, CubaData

4:00–5:45 p.m.

WEST BALLROOM

Panel 14: Law, Legal Culture, and National Identity in Cuba, 1898–1980

Chair: Ricardo Pelegrín Taboada, Florida International University

Una mirada jurídica a Cuba y Puerto Rico

Amado Calixto Gammalame, Asociación Jurídica Cubana

Challenging Spanish Legal Traditions: Cuban Lawyers during the First American Intervention (1898–1902)

Ricardo Pelegrín Taboada, Florida International University

The Creation of Cuban Law: Nationalism, Republicanism, and History

Orlando Rivero-Valdés, California State University, Northridge

Legislation, the Press, and Everyday Life in Cuba, 1970–79
Maite Morales, Florida International University

4:00–5:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

Panel 15: Puerto Rico and Cuba’s Connections and Misencounters: Pablo de la Torriente Brau, the Isle of Pines, and the Cold War

Chair: Raymond Laureano-Ortiz, Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe

Pablo de la Torriente Brau, Presidio Modelo: Pionero de la literatura testimonial

Erik Camayd-Freixas, Florida International University

The Many Résumés of Pablo de la Torriente Brau: From Realengo 18 to Spain and Back

Daniel J. Fernández-Guevara, University of Florida

Cuba y Puerto Rico, alas apuntando en direcciones opuestas: Guerra Fría, instrucción, paradiplomacia e Isla de la Juventud
Raymond Laureano-Ortiz, Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe, Puerto Rico

4:00–5:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 355

Panel 16: The Cuban Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Chair: Alejandro Portes, University of Miami/Princeton University

An Initial Exploration into the Narratives and Life Projects of Cubans from “el Oriente cubano” Living in Puerto Rico for the Past Twenty Years

Blanca Ortiz-Torres, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Micro-agressions: A Study of the Experiences of Cubans from the Eastern Region Who Lived in Havana

Mario A. Rodríguez Cancel and Blanca Ortiz-Torres, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Migración y mercado de trabajo: Desafíos en las trayectorias laborales de profesionales cubanos en Santiago de Chile

Nelson Jaime Santana, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile

The Irony of Cuban Immigration Policy

Susan Eckstein, Boston University

El fin del “exilio”: Evaluando los cambios de opiniones hacia Cuba y su gobierno dentro de la diáspora del sur de la Florida después de sesenta años de su creación
Guillermo J. Grenier, Florida International University

6:00–7:30 p.m.

FACULTY CLUB (GRAHAM CENTER 118)
Welcoming and Dedication Reception in Honor of Emilio Cueto

Hosts: Mark B. Rosenberg, President, Florida International University

John F. Stack, Jr., Dean, Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University

Anne Prestamo, Dean, FIU Libraries

Jorge Duany, Director, Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

Cuban Music on the Piano
Nuria Camino

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

8:30–9:00 a.m.

GRAHAM CENTER FOYER
Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00–10:45 a.m.

EAST BALLROOM
Panel 17: Critical Approaches to Cuban and Puerto Rican Literature

Chair: Ana Menéndez, Florida International University

En busca de una nueva nación: Reescritura identitaria femenina a fines del XIX

Beatriz Muller Marqués, Florida International University

Carpentier's Barroquismo: Codes of Resistance, Anti-Hegemony, and the Syntax of Baroque Prose

Byulorm Park, independent scholar

Puerto Rico y el Caribe en el mar de los piratas: Tráfico humano y piratería en Viaje a la isla de Mona de Mayra Montero

Mónica Ayala-Martínez, Denison University

Las transmutaciones del pájaro puertorriqueño en la obra de Mayra Montero

Lourdes Martínez-Echazábal, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis/University of California, Santa Cruz

Reivindicación histórica en "Mujer negra" de Nancy Morejón y "Arrancada" de Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro

Annie Mendoza, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

9:00–10:45 a.m.

CENTER BALLROOM
Panel 18: Rethinking the Boundaries of Diaspora or Holding a Mirror Up to Cuban Migration

Chair: Iraida H. López, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Reemplazar el borrón con el vasto horizonte de un Caribe que se extiende más allá de sus límites: La memoria plural en la primera poesía afro-cubanoamericana de Adrian Castro

Iraida H. López, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Puerto Rico en Areíto: Translation and Other Collaborations in the Cuban-Puerto Rican Diasporas in New York

Laura Lomas, Rutgers University, Newark

The Draining Nature of the Cuban Diaspora

Antonio López, George Washington University

Literature of Caribbean Diasporas: A Study of Translocal Ethnoscapes in the Works of Puerto Rican and Cuban-American Writers in the United States

Carmen Haydée Rivera Vega, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

9:00–10:45 a.m.

WEST BALLROOM

Panel 19: Cuba no tiene una sola voz: Personas, ruinas, poesía, exilio, denuncia política y entropía en la obra cinematográfica de Eliecer Jiménez Almeida

Chair: Nils Longueira Borrego, Yale University

Cuando se encuentra la voz

Nils Longueira Borrego, Yale University

Cine y poesía en Persona, de Eliecer Jiménez Almeida

Julio Ramos, University of California, Berkeley

Introspective Ruins: Loss and Ruination in the Works of Eliecer Jiménez Almeida

Juan Carlos Rodríguez, Georgia Institute of Technology

Entropía (Eliecer Jiménez): Para un modelo rizomático del espectador cubano

Justo Planas-Cabreja, Graduate Center, CUNY

9:00–10:45 a.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

Panel 20: Cuba and Puerto Rico during the Cold War Era

Chair: Brian Latell, Florida International University

Alas nuclearizadas: Los caminos binarios de Cuba y Puerto Rico en el despegue de la Revolución Cubana (1959–1963)

Silvia Alvarez Curbelo, Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín, Puerto Rico

“In Search of Friends for the Independence of Puerto Rico”: The Cuban Revolution and Puerto Rican Independence Movements in the Early 1960s

Caty S. Seger, Smith College

Cuba, Puerto Rico y la Asociación de Estados del Caribe

Soraya Asad Sánchez, independent scholar

Geopolíticas de la traducción socialista: Circulación de literatura entre el Bloque del Este y el Caribe durante la Guerra Fría

Damaris Puñales Alpízar, Case Western Reserve University

Más allá de alas y huracanes: *Counterpoints of Cuba and Puerto Rico Facing the Global Crisis*

Agustín Laó-Montes, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

9:00–10:45 a.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 355

Panel 21: Racial and National Identities in Cuba and Puerto Rico

Chair: Andrea Queeley, Florida International University

Producto cultural, raza y clases sociales: Juan Criollo (1927)
William Rosa, Montclair State University

Dialéctica de inclusión y exclusión: Conflictos sociales, raciales e identitarios en Martín Rivas de Alberto Best Gana y Sirena de Francisco Arriví

Gabriela C. Escobar Rodríguez, Florida International University

Nationalism, Race, and Neocolonialism: The Cases of Cuba and Puerto Rico

Danielle Pilar Clealand, Florida International University

Cruzando barreras desde la trinchera de la piel

Juan Antonio Madrazo Luna, Comité Ciudadanos por la Integración Racial, Cuba

10:45–11:00 a.m.

BREAK

11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

EAST BALLROOM

Panel 22: Raza, sexo y nación en el imaginario finisecular cubano (siglos XIX–XX)

Chair: Maida Watson, Florida International University

A Costumbrista View of Rural Slavery: Sketches of a Bristolian-Cuban Ingenio

Rafael Ocasio, Agnes Scott College

La Sociedad Antropológica de la Isla de Cuba: Raza, esclavitud y autonomismo

Daylet Domínguez, University of California, Berkeley

Policías, antropólogos y cineastas: Prácticas e imagerías de las representaciones raciales en Cuba

Alberto Sosa Cabanas, Florida International University

La violencia erótica contra negras y mulatas en la literatura de la vanguardia

Jorge Camacho, University of South Carolina

11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 23: Roundtable: Construyendo la CasaCuba

Chair: María Carla Chicué, Florida International University

Participants

Emilio Cueto, independent scholar

Rafael Peñalver, San Carlos Institute, Key West

Alberto Ibargüen, John and James L. Knight Foundation

Agustín Arellano, Sr., CasaCuba

Adrienne Arsht, philanthropist

Josette Sheeran, Asia Society

Ignacio Moralejo Ledo, Centro Cultural Español, Miami

11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

WEST BALLROOM

Panel 24: *Músicas en múltiples orillas: Music Interactions and Exchanges between Cuba and Puerto Rico*

Chair: Marysol Quevedo, University of Miami

Del sonido a la palabra: Espacios sonoros y escritura imperial sobre Puerto Rico y Cuba, 1898–1930

Hugo Viera-Vargas, New College of Florida

“La Habana Elegante”: Cuba como plaza de trabajo y lanzamiento artístico para los músicos puertorriqueños, 1890–1940

Noel Allende-Goitia, independent scholar

Rafael Aponte-Ledée in Cuba: Music, Institutions, and Ideology

Noel Torres-Rivera, Graduate Center, CUNY

“Invasión del 80 / ¡Yo vine del Mariel!” The Musical Impact of the Mariel Boatlift on the Latin Music Scene of New York City and Interethnic Collaboration between Puerto Ricans and Cubans

Benjamin Lapidus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Discussant: Marysol Quevedo, University of Miami

11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

Panel 25: Nuevas tendencias en el audiovisual cubano contemporáneo

Chair: Santiago Juan-Navarro, Florida International University

Espectralidad y fanto-máquina, el culto al héroe en el audiovisual cubano contemporáneo

Pedro Pablo Porbén, Bowling Green University

Continuidad y ruptura: La experimentación formal y temática en el discurso audiovisual dentro de la obra de Cremata

Esteban Alfonso, Florida International University

Héroes azucareros y confinados de las UMAP: Dos visiones del azúcar en el documental cubano

Déborah Gómez, Florida International University

Cuba, el nuevo arte de hacer ruinas: La estética del derrumbe en el documental cubano contemporáneo

Santiago Juan-Navarro, Florida International University

Discussant: María Caridad Cumaná, Miami Dade College

11:00 a.m–12:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 355

Panel 26: *La maldita circunstancia: Pan-Caribbean Borders in the Wake of Disaster*

Chair: Natalie Catasús, Emory University

Constructing the Balsera: Chasing the Ghost of Elián's Mother

Natalie Catasús, Emory University

Transtime and the Colonial Subject: Hypermotion and Inertia in a Post-María World

Karlie Rodríguez, Emory University

The Ritual of the Disaster Feast

Hannah C. Griggs, Emory University

Hurricanes in Cuba and Puerto Rico: A Comparative Look at Post-Hurricane Processes of Recuperation

Denisse Delgado-Vázquez and Katsyris Rivera-Kientz, University of Massachusetts, Boston

A Pan-Caribbean Bridge: Cuban and Puerto Rican (and More) Diasporas in Miami

Francisco López, Emory University

Discussant: Michael Grafals, Florida International University

12:45–2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

2:00–3:45 p.m.

EAST BALLROOM

Panel 27: Race, Space, and Nationalism in Miami, Cuba, and Puerto Rico

Chair: Alexandra P. Gelbard, Florida International University

Palenques and Cabildos de Nación in Building a Cuba Libre: Re-centering the African Presence of Oriente in the Construction of Cuban Nationalism, 1521–1899

Alexandra P. Gelbard, Florida International University

The Maître Divas of Wynwod: Culinary Consumption and the Black Aesthetic in Nuevo Latino Cuisine

Judith Williams, Florida International University

Manufacturing Whiteness and Blackness at the Ceiba Tree: Transnational Flows of Racial Narratives in Cuba/Miami Tourism

Corinna J. Moebius, Florida International University

Capitalist Playground: Neoliberal and Consumerist Efforts in Puerto Rico Post-Hurricane Maria

Melissa Scott Cambero, Florida International University

Discussant: Judith Williams, Florida International University

2:00–3:45 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 28: The Economy of Cuba on the 60th Anniversary of the Revolution

Chairs: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh, and Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan

Recent Cuban Economic Trends

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh

The Expansion of International Tourism in Cuba in the Post-Cold War Period

Paolo Spadoni, Augusta University

Los tres pilares estratégicos de la economía cubana: Remesas, trabajo por cuenta propia e inversión extranjera

Emilio Morales, Havana Consulting Group

Cuba's New, Old Inequalities: The Role and Impact of Migration, Remittances, and Citizenship

Katrin Hansing, Baruch College, CUNY/German Institute of Global and Area Studies; and Bert Hoffmann, German Institute of Global and Area Studies/Free University of Berlin

2:00–3:45 p.m.

WEST BALLROOM

Panel 29: Sujetos marginados, nación e identidad en el Caribe: Criterios desde el diálogo poético y novelesco

Chair: Ramón Muñiz Sarmiento, Florida International University

Performance and Soundscapes of the Cuban Colonial Villancico
Luciana Kube, Florida International University

Cuba, Miami y Puerto Rico en la poesía de Juan Ramón Jiménez
Habey Hechavarría, Florida International University

Ciudad, identidad y marginalidad en la obra de Manuel Ramos Otero
Sergio Andruccioli, Florida International University

¿Dos alas de un pájaro disecado?: Los hechos y el desecho en la literatura caribeña
Mary Ann Gosser Esquilín, Florida Atlantic University

2:00–3:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

Panel 30: Music, Tradition, and Performance in Cuba and Puerto Rico

Chair: Verónica González, Florida International University

Intercambios musicales entre Cuba y Puerto Rico
Cristóbal Díaz Ayala, independent scholar

Colonial Baroque Cuban Composer Esteban Salas' Contrasting Musical Styles
Mirna Y. Cabrera, McCook Community College

Music in Tres tristes tigres by Guillermo Cabrera Infante and La guaracha del Macho Camacho by Luis Rafael Sánchez
Jerry W. Carlson, City College and Graduate Center, CUNY

Carnival-scapes and Shared Imaginations: Locating the Eastern Caribbean in Carnaval de La Habana, Carnaval Santiaguero, Carnaval Ponceño, and Fiestas de la Calle San Sebastián
Mirerza González-Vélez, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Miami tiene timba: Afro-Cuban and Afro-Puerto Rican Traditional Music in Miami

2:00–3:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 355

**Panel 31: From Pre-Conquest to Revolutionary Times:
Historical Perspectives on Cuba and Puerto Rico**

Chair: Michael J. Bustamante, Florida International University

El principio navicular en las sociedades aborígenes indoantillanas
Alonso Expósito Alvarez, Public Library System of Hialeah

*De la Máquina de Colón, dos islas: Límites del capitalismo en la
invención de Cuba y Puerto Rico*
Andy Alfonso, Princeton University

*Masonería autóctona y movimiento autonomista en Cuba y Puerto
Rico: Un proyecto conjunto*
Jorge Luis Romeu, Syracuse University, y Miguel A. Pereira
Rivera, Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico

*The Pedagogy of Child Teachers in the Cuban Literacy Campaign
of 1961*
Yuleisy Mena, Florida International University

*El impacto económico, social y cultural de la diáspora cubana en
Puerto Rico*
Pedro Sánchez Solano, Universidad Autónoma de La Laguna,
México

3:45–4:00 p.m.

BREAK

4:00–5:45 p.m.

EAST BALLROOM

**Panel 32: Political and Cultural Dimensions of Cuban
Migration Patterns**

Chair: Veronica Díaz, Florida International University

The Chinese Presence: Contributions to Cubanidad
Elisa Romulo, Florida International University

The (Cuban-)American Dream
Veronica Díaz, Florida International University

*Ebbs and Tides in the Florida Straits: Cuban Migration Trends
and U.S. Foreign Policy under Obama and Trump*
Caroline McCulloch, Florida International University

The Cuban Diaspora in Germany
Ana Rusch, Florida International University

Discussant: Caroline McCulloch, Florida International University

4:00–5:45 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 33: Documenting and Comparing the Cultural Practices of Cuba and Puerto Rico

Chair: Erik Camayd-Freixas, Florida International University

Manolo and Taso: The Local Eyes of Post-World War II U.S. Anthropologists in Cuba and Puerto Rico

Jorge L. Giovannetti-Torres, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Los tesoros lexicográficos de Puerto Rico y Cuba: Inicios de una colaboración hacia el “Tesoro lexicográfico del español caribeño insular”

Maia Sherwood Droz, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico, y Aurora M. Camacho Barreiro, Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística “José Antonio Portuondo Valdor,” Cuba

Sanando a nuestra gente: The Contentious Legacies of Curanderismo and Healthcare in Puerto Rico
Miguel Antony Vásquez, University of Miami

Comer Bien: Food Discourse between Pleasure and Health in Cuba and Puerto Rico
Melissa Fuster, Brooklyn College, CUNY

4:00–5:45 p.m.

WEST BALLROOM

Panel 34: Problemas sociales y políticas públicas en la Cuba contemporánea

Chair: Sebastián Arcos, Florida International University

“En contra de la pared”: *Cubans and the Black Market during the Special Period*

Rozmery Palenzuela Vicente, Florida International University

Políticas anticulturales: De la parametración al Decreto Ley 349
Marthadela Tamayo González, Comité Ciudadanos por la Integración Racial, Cuba

El joven universitario cubano hoy
Buenaventura Rubén Rigol Cardona y Erik Reyes Gómez, Universidad de Holguín, Cuba

Las políticas de envejecimiento y cuidados en Cuba
Elaine Acosta González, Florida International University

*A Collaborative Research Project for the Enrichment of the
Medical Humanities in the Caribbean*
Glorimar Velázquez Pizarro, Universidad Metropolitana, Puerto
Rico

4:00–5:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 150

**Panel 35: Expressions of Cuban National Identity in
Literature, Popular Culture, and the Media**

Chair: Ricardo Castells, Florida International University

Beyond Mulataje: Further Considerations of the Cuban Icon
Alison Fraunhar, Saint Xavier University

*Desafiando los cánones: La mulata desde la perspectiva femenina
de Eva Canel*
Beatriz Calvo-Peña, Barry University

*Leyendo a Ortega y Gasset en Cuba: Desde el pensamiento, la
nación y la literatura*
Ariel Pérez Lazo, Miami Dade College/Florida International
University

*El camarógrafo de Cuba: The Life and Legacy of Guayo
Hernández*
Richard Denis, Florida International University

*Elpidio Valdés, la animación televisiva y la identidad cultural
cubana*
Delia M. García, Florida International University

4:00–5:45 p.m.

GRAHAM CENTER 355

**Panel 36: Contemporary Cuban Arts: Film, Dance, and
Photography**

Chair: Esteban Alfonso, Florida International University

Outsiders Looking In: La Habana through the Female Gaze
Cecelia Lawless, Cornell University

*The City under Siege: Exploring the Urban Cinematic Spaces of
Clandestinidad in Rebeca Chávez's Film Ciudad en rojo (2009)*
Lauren Peña, University of Texas, Austin

“Lo tenemos en la sangre”: *Political-Economic and Social Circumstances of Self-Employed Dance Instructors in Cuba*
Michal Stein, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, and
John Vertovec, Florida International University

The Hemingway House Panoramas
Hugo Fernández, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

7:00–8:30 p.m.

CENTER BALLROOM

Panel 37: Roundtable

Collecting Cuba: A Conversation with Emilio Cueto

Chair: Jorge Duany, Florida International University

Participants

Michael J. Bustamante, Florida International University

Ramón Cernuda, Cernuda Arte

María Antonia Cabrera Arús, *Cuba Material*

Emilio Cueto, independent scholar

ADJOURN

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Lisandra Cuesta

About the Cuban Research Institute

The Cuban Research Institute (CRI) of Florida International University (FIU) is dedicated to creating and disseminating knowledge about Cuba and Cuban Americans. The Institute encourages original research and interdisciplinary teaching, organizes extracurricular activities, collaborates with other academic units working in Cuban and Cuban-American studies, and promotes the development of library holdings and collections on Cuba and its diaspora. Founded in 1991, CRI is a freestanding entity within FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs. Located amidst the largest Cuban diaspora in the world and at the gateway between Cuba and the United States, CRI is the nation's premier center for academic research and public programs on Cuban and Cuban-American issues. No other U.S. university surpasses FIU in the number of professors and students of Cuban origin. CRI is internationally recognized for promoting excellence in scholarship and research on the history, politics, economy, and culture of Cuba and its diaspora.

