



DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CUBA STUDIES

2014 – 2019



Since its founding in 1999, the Cuba Studies Program (CSP) has sought to facilitate the research and study of Cuba by Harvard faculty and students across the University. To advance this objective, the CSP has developed and consolidated scientific and scholarly exchanges and other forms of academic cooperation with our counterparts among Cuban scholars, scientists, artists, and other intellectuals. Selectively and only when appropriate, the CSP has also established institutional ties to promote such research and study. Between 2014 and 2019, the CSP continued a variety of initiatives, the highlights of which are listed in this booklet.

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND CUBA

Harvard University's relationship with Cuba stretches back well over a hundred years. At the end of the nineteenth century, Harvard scholars began conducting studies at the **Harvard Botanical Station for Tropical Research** in Cienfuegos, Cuba. The Botanical Station eventually became part of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

In 1900, more than a thousand Cuban teachers traveled to Harvard for training in the American education system in the midst of the U.S. occupation of the island. Recently, the Cuba Studies Program sponsored the documentary *The Harvard Cubans* to highlight this important moment in the history of the relationship between Cuba and Harvard specifically, and Cuba and the United States in general.

Following these beginnings, Harvard has supported research and teaching on Cuba that has grown over the course of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first.

Harvard's long-standing interest in Cuba is reflected in the number of faculty with research projects in Cuba, in the comparatively large number of courses that treat Cuban issues, and in the University's extensive library and museum holdings of Cuban materials. For instance, the **José Augusto Escoto Cuban history and literature collection** at Houghton Library contains valuable primary documents. Likewise, the collections of the **Museum of Comparative Zoology** reflect a sustained interest in the study of Cuban flora and fauna.

Currently, the number of faculty and students teaching and studying topics related to Cuba includes the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts, and an interest in research related to Cuba can be found in almost all divisions of the university, including the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the professional schools of Business, Design, Divinity, Education, Government, Law, Medicine, and Public Health.

Harvard Jazz Bands students joined the Orquesta Típica Miguel Failde on stage during their 2017 trip to Cuba, supported by the Cuba Studies Program and led by their director, Yosvany Terry.





CUBA STUDIES PROGRAM AT DRCLAS

The Center's program of scholarly collaboration and exchanges with Cuba has sought to accomplish three important goals:

- (a) to **facilitate research on Cuba and the development of academic relationships** in Cuba by Harvard faculty and students;
- (b) to **assist Harvard's educational and cultural programs** in Cuba; and,
- (c) to **strengthen institutional ties between Harvard and Cuban academic, scientific and research institutions** through visiting faculty and researchers as well as jointly organized workshops and conferences.

Aiming to strengthen and deepen initiatives in a broad range of disciplines, a cornerstone of the Program's work has been to build links between research centers in Cuba and Harvard. The Program has worked with several Cuban academic and scientific institutions, including **the Instituto Juan Marinello, Revista Temas, the research institutes of the University of Havana, the Center for the Sociological and Psychological Studies (CIPS), the Jardín Botánico de Cienfuegos, and the José Martí National Library**. As part of these endeavors, each year during the last decade, many Harvard faculty and students have traveled to Cuba for research or other educational activities.

At Harvard, DRCLAS has sponsored hundreds of public events on issues and research related to Cuba. The events have included seminars with Harvard faculty and Cuban

visiting scholars, film screenings, and major public events with visiting Cuban intellectuals and public figures. DRCLAS has also hosted a works-in-progress workshop for Harvard undergraduate and graduate students working on theses and dissertations related to Cuba.

THE CUBA STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Since its inception in 1999, the Cuba Studies Program at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies has evolved into one of the most extensive and diverse ventures of its kind. Unlike any other program in the United States, the program caters to scholars from areas across the wide spectrum of academic fields, namely the social sciences, history, environment, education, chemistry, public health and medical sciences, public policy, the arts and humanities, religion, library exchange and urban planning. Components of these collaborations have included workshops and symposia in Cuba and other countries, the publication of co-edited volumes, and research stays by Cuban scholars at Harvard. Guided by the oversight and leadership of the Harvard University-wide Cuba Studies faculty committee, the Program's work has been sustained with generous support from Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, and the members of the CSP Advisory Group.



HARVARD AND CUBA'S MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On December 16th, 2017, a memorandum of understanding was signed in Havana between Harvard University and the Ministry of Higher Education (MES) to expand forms of mutual cooperation and pursue their mutual academic and research interests. Harvard Vice Provost of International Affairs **Mark C. Elliott** and MES Vice Minister **Aurora Fernández** were at the head of the signing.

Also present were several important Cuban officials, such as Minister of Higher Education **José Ramón Saborido Loidi** and **Josefina Vidal**, director general of the U.S. Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From Harvard University, the signing was attended by Cuba Studies Program Chair **Dr. Alejandro de la Fuente**

and former Cuba Studies Program Co-Chair **Dr. Jorge Domínguez**, and former Associate Director of Academic Programs **Erin Goodman**. The signing was widely covered in the Cuban and international media.

Under the agreement, the MES now serves as a host for Harvard faculty, students and scholars who wish to conduct research or study in Cuba. In turn, Harvard University welcomes Cuban graduate students who are admitted to degree programs through Harvard's normal admissions procedures. It also welcomes Cuban scholars who are accepted as visiting researchers or visiting professors under Harvard's normal procedures for accepting visiting researchers or professors. The agreement designates the

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies as the facilitator of the different forms of cooperation between Harvard and Cuban higher education institutions.

Possible areas of collaboration include exchange programs involving undergraduate and graduate students and professors for academic and research collaboration. Other forms of cooperation involve training and improvement in academic programs on areas of mutual interest, and exploring topics for joint research projects. Collaborative relationships between Harvard and Cuban universities in undergraduate higher education, postgraduate education, and scientific research, might include modalities such as short courses, internships, research stays, publication of scientific articles, and academic workshops and conferences.

Harvard Vice Provost of International Affairs Mark C. Elliott and Ministry of Higher Education Vice Minister Aurora Fernández led the signing on December 16, 2017 at the Hotel Nacional in Havana.



SEMINAR SERIES

The Cuba Studies Program Seminar Series presents the Harvard community and the general public with the latest, most advanced work produced by leading academics working on Cuba related issues around the world. The seminars cover multidisciplinary topics, including history, music, political science, sociology, economics, among many others. They provide a space for discussion and reflection and therefore are an important platform for the advancement of knowledge about Cuban culture and society.

HISTORY

2019
The Scroll and the Revolution: The Dilemmas of Writing about the Jews of Cuba
Ruth Behar

To Be or Not to Be Caribe: Magazine Combat in Cuba, 1944
Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann

Radio Wars Not Cold Wars: Political Dissidence and Transnational Clandestine Broadcasting
Alejandra Bronfman

2018
Inclusive and White: State Cultural Policy in Cuba, 1940-1958
Cary Aileen García Yero

Capitalists of Misery: Shantytown Networks and the Cuban Revolution, 1950-1963
Jesse Horst

"Traders without Borders": Transnational Networks of the Illegal Slave Trade to Cuba
Marial Iglesias Utset and Manuel Barcia

2017
The 'Liberal Moment' of the Revolution: Early Educational Reforms in Revolutionary Cuba
Rainer Schultz

La Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí y su Sistema de Bibliotecas Públicas: de los Inciertos Orígenes al Mundo Actual de las Tecnologías (1901-2016)
Eduardo Torres Cuevas

2016
Cuba, the Land of Opportunity? Reflections on Agricultural Possibilities, 1898 and 2014
Rainer Schultz

Racial Womanhood and the Practice of Cuban Citizenship, 1886-1958
Takkara Brunson

2015
Livestock in 20th Century Cuba: Between Dreams and Realities
Reinaldo Funes Monzote

West African Warfare in Bahia and Cuba: Soldier Slaves in the Atlantic World, 1807-1844
Manuel Barcia Paz

2014
Fidel Castro Before the Revolution
Jonathan Hansen

ECONOMY

2017
La economía cubana: ¿Dónde está? Y ¿qué se podría hacer?
Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva

Las cooperativas no agropecuarias dentro de la actualización del modelo económico cubano
Dayrelis Ojeda Suris

2015
Evaluación del proceso de unificación monetaria y cambiaria en Cuba según la experiencia internacional
Jessica León

2014
Las nuevas transformaciones en el sector cooperativo cubano
Reynaldo Jiménez Guethón



Artist Juan Roberto Diago and Professor Alejandro de la Fuente converse at the Cooper Gallery about the exhibition, "Diago: The Pasts of This Afro-Cuban Present."



The Honorable Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis presents at a seminar in December 2017.

GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

2019
La nueva constitución cubana: un balance
Julio Cesar Guanche

Regímenes de bienestar en Cuba: mujeres y desigualdades
Ailynn Torres Santana

2017
Política social en Cuba: Oportunidades y retos
Dayma Echevarría León

2016
Family Remittances and Social Inequalities: A Recent Study in the Cuban Capital
Denisse Delgado

2015
Community Participation and Environmental Factors in Local Sustainable Development in Cuba
Marta Rosa Muñoz Campos

Reconstructing the History of Admixture and African Genealogy by DNA Studies
Beatriz Marcheco-Teruel

2014
Social Media and Internet in Cuba
Elaine Díaz Rodríguez

The New Cuban Diaspora in Canada and Western Europe
Jean Stubbs and Catherine Krull

CUBA-U.S. RELATIONS

2017
Cuba Studies Program presents the Honorable Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis

2015
Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations between Washington and Havana
William LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh

ARTS AND CULTURE

2019
Chucho Valdés: Narrativas Musicales
Chucho Valdés and Yosvany Terry

Havana's Noise and Rhythm: Understanding Afrocubaneity
Pablo Herrera

The Symbolism of Race in Cuba Today
Pedro Pérez Sarduy

OPIUM: A Conversation with Cuban Artist José Toirac
Jose Toirac and Octavio Zaya

2018
Arsenio and Bebo
Ned Sublette

Cuban "Serious" Music and Aesthetics in 20th-Century Latin America
Leo Brouwer

Postsocialismo de bolsillo: Contemporary Latin American Mediascape
Paloma Duong

The Cuban Revolution as Gospel: José Angel Toirac & Robert Glück present "Parables"
José Angel Toirac and Robert Glück

2017
El Afrocubanismo en clave internacional: oposición y reafirmación en la vanguardia musical cubana
Belén Vega Pichaco

Abakuá, Añá, Ifá: Three Fundaments of Cuba
Ivor Miller

Measuring God in Earth: A Discussion on Ana Mendieta's Work
Tania Bruguera and Carrie Lambert-Beatty

2016
Diago: The Past of This Afro-Cuban Present
Juan Roberto Diago

Field Notes Gathered by Ears
Yosvany Terry

"#YoTambienExijo", Citizen Art
Tania Bruguera

The Commodification of Culture and the Cultural Life of Commodities in the New Cuba
Paloma Duong

Guerrillas de comunicación en Cuba: Clash y artes de resistencia
Victor Fowler



Visual artist Tania Bruguera and art historian Carrie Lambert-Beatty lead the seminar, "Measuring God in Earth: A Discussion on Ana Mendieta's Work."

Fellows of the Afro-Latin American Research Institute, Lester Tomé, Devyn Spence, Odette Casamayor Cisneros, and Elio Rodríguez pose in front of the work *Forest on the Walls*, 2014, by Rodríguez in the exhibit "Drapetomanía: Grupo Antillano and the Art of Afro-Cuba" at the Cooper Gallery of the Hutchins Center in 2015.



2015

La retórica 'afrodescendiente' en las narrativas críticas y creativas afrohispanoamericanas

Silvia Valero

Electric Santería: Racial and Sexual Assemblages of Transnational Religion

Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús

The Power of the Unsaid: Black Flesh and the Sublime in Contemporary Cuban Arts

Odette Casamayor Cisneros

Ballet en Blanco y Negro: Choreographing Racial Democracy and Cultural Hybridity for the Cuban Revolution

Lester Tomé

Corridos y Venidas

Elio Rodríguez

Drapetomanía

Roundtable Discussion with Artists of the Grupo Antillano

SUPPORT OF CUBAN ARTS

Cuba is famous for its cultural and artistic wealth, for the sophistication of its music, for its provocative visual arts and its weighty literature. The magnitude of its power, often contrasted with the small size of the island, usually leaves admirers in awe. The Cuba Studies Program proudly supports the advancement of Cuban arts and their study by sponsoring and organizing seminars on arts-related topics, music concerts, and visual arts exhibits.

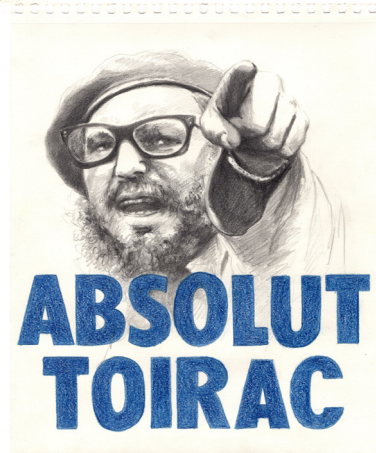
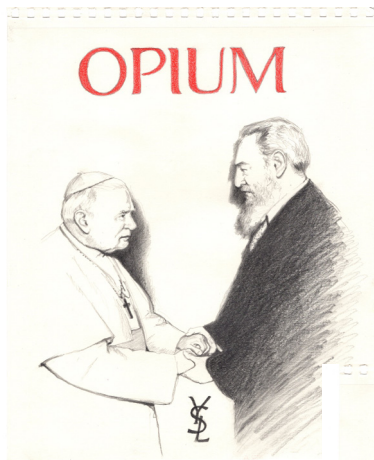
FILMS

Reflections on Race & Cuba: Views from the World of Film and Raza, dir. Eric Corvalán

Panel with Lester Tomé, Odette Casamayor Cisneros, Devyn Spence and Elio Rodríguez, 2015

Re-embarque/Reshipment

Documentary by Gloria Rolando, 2014



The exhibition OPIUM. Works by José Toirac (on view until October 2019), included a conversation between the artist, the curator, Octavio Zaya, and the Chair of the Cuba Studies Program, Alejandro de la Fuente. Since the early 1990s, José Toirac has been a well-known artist in Cuba. Despite the obvious political irony of his paintings and drawings, or perhaps because of it, Toirac was awarded last year's National Prize of Fine Arts in Cuba. The exhibition presents 10 drawings from his series Tiempos Nuevos, that brings together the iconographic public figure of Fidel Castro along with globalized ads from worldwide famous brands. The exhibition also introduces a collection of new works originally published in the book Parables (2017), along poems by Robert Gluck inspired by the Bible.

Cuban pianist, composer and arranger Chucho Valdés --one of the most influential figures in modern Afro-Cuban jazz, a six-time Grammy Award winner and three-time Latin Grammy Award Winner-- was named 2019 Jazz Master in Residence last Spring at Harvard. During his stay he was joined by Senior Lecturer on Music and Director of the Jazz Ensembles, Yosvany Terry, for a dialogue on the musician's life and work, his conception of jazz and music, and his vision about the present and future of Cuban music. Also, Harvard's renowned Sanders Theatre featured a live performance by Chucho Valdés and the Harvard Jazz Bands in a concert sponsored by the Office for the Arts at Harvard and the Harvard Jazz Bands (Yosvany Terry and Mark Olson, conductors).



EXHIBITS

OPIUM: Works by José Toirac

Solo exhibition of José Toirac at DRCLAS, curated by Octavio Zaya 2019

At the Cooper Gallery of the Hutchins Center. Curated by Alejandro de la Fuente:

Diago: The Pasts of this Afro-Cuban Present

Solo exhibition of Juan Roberto Diago, 2017

Con la Guardia en Alto

Solo exhibition of Elio Rodríguez, 2016

Drapetomania: Grupo Antillano and the Art of Afro-Cuba

Group exhibition to honor the Grupo Antillano (active 1978-1983), 2015

CONCERTS

Puente Musical: Celebrating Chucho Valdés

Dir. Yosvany Terry, at Sanders Theater, 2019

Síntesis: Una visión de la herencia musical afro-cubana

At Leverett House Library Theater, 2019

Harvard Jazz Bands

At Casa de las Américas, Havana, 2017

Afro-Cuban Musical Traditions: Lukumí Bata

Dir. Yosvany Terry, at Harvard Ed Portal, 2017

Ancestral Memories

Yosvany Terry, saxophone, and Baptiste Trotignon, piano, at the Oberon Theater, 2017

Los Cubanos de Harvard Documentary

In spring 2016, the Cuba Studies Program sponsored Cuban journalist and documentarian **Danny González Lucena** to come to Harvard to conduct archival research, interviews and filming, culminating in the production of the documentary *Los cubanos de Harvard* (**The Harvard Cubans**, 2017).

The documentary narrates how in the year 1900, more than half of all Cuban public school teachers from across the island boarded five American military ships to travel to Cambridge to participate in a Summer School organized by Harvard, the largest such endeavor ever undertaken by the University. The purpose of the trip was to expose the teachers to modern methods in pedagogy and to the great advances of American society.

The people of Cambridge, convinced that this Expedition would aid in the reconstruction of Cuba after the ravishing wars for independence in Cuba, contributed over \$70,000 to finance the visit. In turn, Harvard offered Summer School courses free of charge to the nearly 1,300 teachers.

Following six weeks at the Harvard Summer School, the teachers traveled to New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC before returning to Cuba. The educational project was not only a resounding success, but it also became **the largest cultural exchange that has ever existed between the two countries**, and was widely covered in the press at the time.



Cuba Studies Program Fellow Cary Aileen García Yero, Associate Director of Academic Programs Erin Goodman, director of the documentary Danny González Lucena, and historian Marial Iglesias Utset, who joined González Lucena in a discussion following the premiere on October 23, 2017.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

The Cuba Studies Program supports research on Cuba and the development of academic relationships between Cuban academics and Harvard faculty and students through the joint organization of workshops, conferences, and symposia.

2019

New Voices in Cuba Studies

Cuba Studies Program Graduate Symposium

Cuba y los nuevos desafíos del sector privado, en el marco de las actuales transformaciones de la nación

Organized by Omar Everleny, several Cuban economists and business entrepreneurs met to discuss contemporary challenges and achievements of the Cuban private sector

2018

New Voices in Cuba Studies

Cuba Studies Program Graduate Symposium

Taller Metodologías de Diseño y Evaluación de Políticas Sociales

Co-hosted by FLACSO (Universidad de La Habana)

2017

El Movimiento Afrocubano: Activismo e Investigación

Over thirty activists of the Afro-Cuban movement discussed the achievements, limitations, and challenges of the antiracist movement in Cuba

Lydia Cabrera in Translation

Marial Iglesias Utset, Erwan Dianteill, Patricia González Gómez-Cásseres, and Ivor Miller

2016

New Research on the History of Public Health in Cuba

John Gutiérrez, Jennifer Lambe, Kelly Urban, Daniel Rodríguez, and Mariola Espinosa

Voices of the Emerging Non-State Sector in Cuba

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Roberto Veiga, and Lenier González

2015

Cuban Social and Economic Policies

Co-hosted by Universidad de La Habana

Social Science Research on Race and Inequality in Cuba and Latin America

Workshop co-organized with FLASCO (Universidad de La Habana) and the Centro de Investigaciones Culturales Juan Marinello

The Slave Trade to Cuba during the 19th-Century: New Insights and Research Perspectives

Marial Iglesias Utset, Oilda Hevia Lanier, and Jorge Felipe González



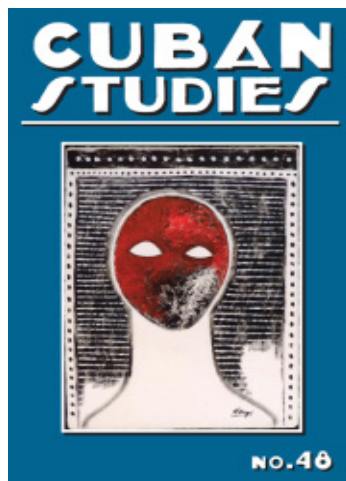
Participants of the conference El Movimiento Afrocubano: Activismo e Investigación at Harvard in 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

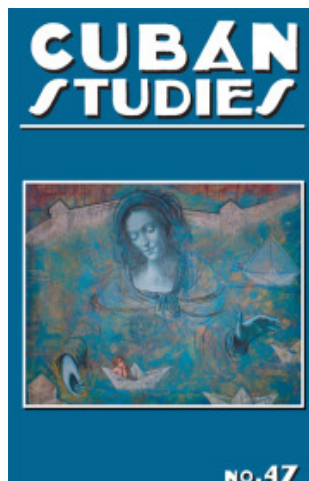
The Cuba Studies Program Faculty has published volumes resulting from joint work with Cuban academics and intellectuals, showcasing scholarship by both U.S. and Cuban scholars.

The Cuba Studies Program is also the home of the editorial team of the journal *Cuban Studies*. Founded in 1970, *Cuban Studies* has been published by the University of Pittsburgh Press since 1985. It is the preeminent journal for scholarly work on Cuba. Each volume includes articles in both English and Spanish, as well as a large book review section. Widely praised for its interdisciplinary approach and trenchant analysis of an array of topics, each volume features the best scholarship in the humanities and social sciences.

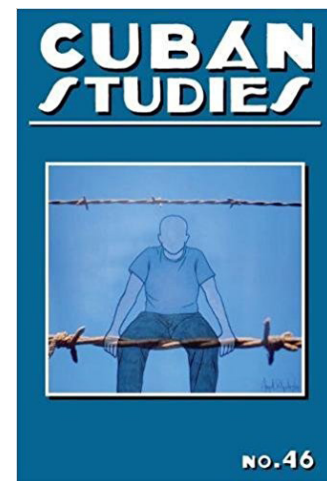
CUBAN STUDIES JOURNAL



Cuban Studies 48
Pittsburgh University Press, 2018



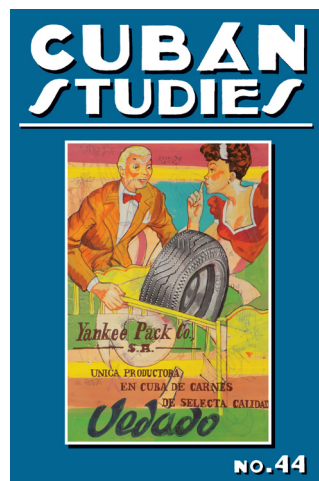
Cuban Studies 47
Pittsburgh University Press, 2018



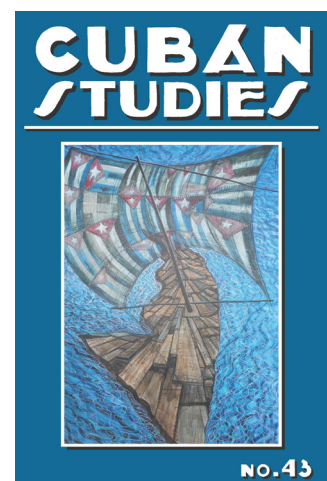
Cuban Studies 46
Pittsburgh University Press, 2018



Cuban Studies 45
Pittsburgh University Press, 2017



Cuban Studies 44
Pittsburgh University Press, 2016

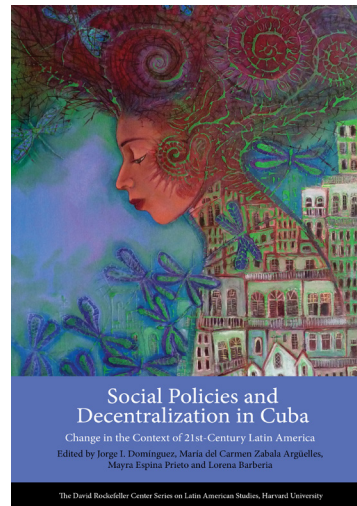


Cuban Studies 43
Pittsburgh University Press, 2015

BOOKS



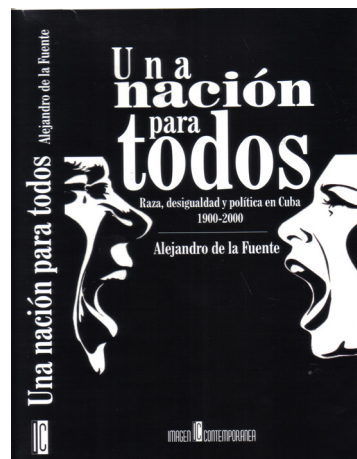
The Cuban Economy in a New Era: An Agenda for Change Toward Durable Development
Harvard University Press, 2018



Social Policies and Decentralization in Cuba: Change in the Context of 21st-Century Latin America
Harvard University Press, 2017



Diago: The Pasts of This Afro-Present
Alejandro de la Fuente. Harvard University Press, 2017



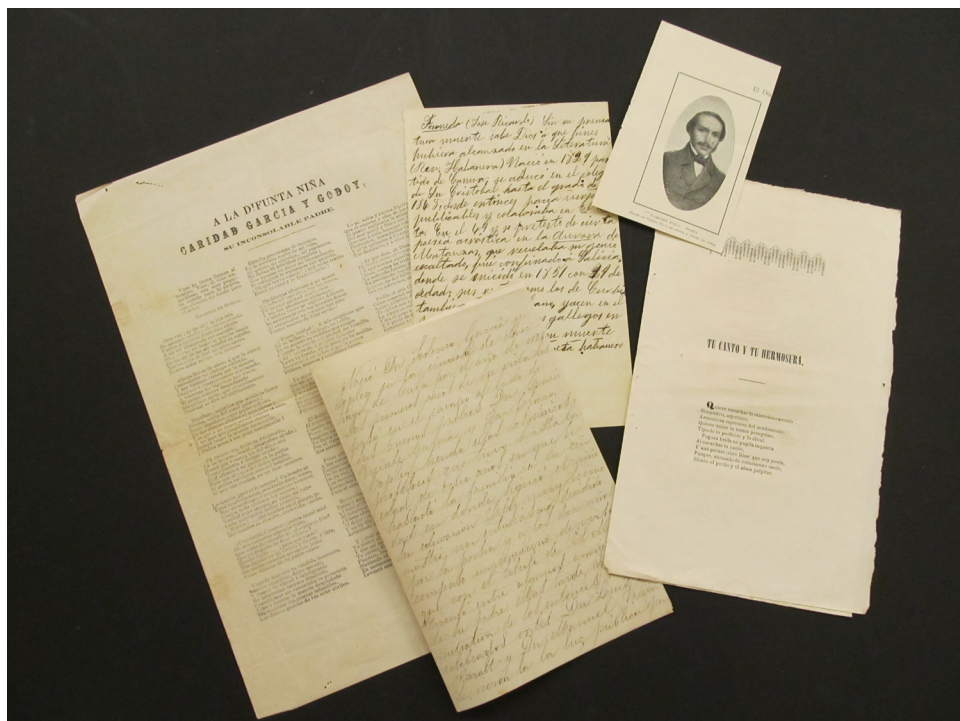
Cuban edition of *Una nación para todos: raza, desigualdad y política en Cuba, 1900-2000*
Alejandro de la Fuente. Imagen Contemporánea, 2014

Debating U.S.-Cuban Relations
Revised edition of *The United States and Cuba: Shall We Play Ball?* (2011)
Harvard University Press, 2017

CUBA IN THE HARVARD LIBRARY

Harvard libraries are the home of some of the most important Cuba collections outside of Cuba. Currently, the Harvard Library is undergoing an important process of digitization of some of its most important Cuba related resources like **The José Augusto Escoto Cuban History and Literature collection, ca. 1574- 1920**. The collection comprises autograph manuscripts, correspondence, historical documents, printed items, and other materials relating to Cuban history and culture. It includes 63 boxes with clippings, drawings, lithographs, portraits, sketches, individual issues of journals and newspapers, decrees, orders, obituaries, pamphlets and leaflets, among others. Some of the subjects covered in the materials are censorship, religion, commerce and industry, conspiracy and independence, laws and legislation, military, piracy, political parties and elections, printing and publishing, public finance and taxation, schools and education, slavery and slave trade, statistics, theater, among others.

Additionally, **Lynn Shirey, the Librarian for Latin America, Spain & Portugal**, is planning a digitization proposal that would increase accessibility to Cuba-related special collections (documents and archives) from several Harvard libraries, including **the Museum of Comparative Zoology Library, Houghton Library and the Harvard University Archives**. The **Judaica Division, Widener Library**, has digitized Judaica-related pamphlets and other materials published in Cuba. Moreover, the Harvard Library houses the largest collection of unique Cuban monographs in the US.



Examples of documents from the The José Augusto Escoto Cuban History and Literature collection, ca. 1574- 1920.



Examples of materials recently acquired by Harvard Library related to Rafael Queneditt Morales and Grupo Antillano.

Over the next two years, Harvard aims to digitize monographs produced in Cuba before 1923 and make them freely accessible. In this way, Harvard University will contribute to the **Cuba Libro Project**, which involves the libraries from the University of Florida, Harvard University, UCLA, the University of Miami, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Florida International University, and the New York Public Library in a collaborative effort with the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí to provide greater knowledge of, and access to, Cuban bibliographic history held in libraries in the US and Cuba.

The Art of Rafael Queneditt Morales (1942-2016) and Grupo Antillano at Harvard Library

Last year, Harvard Library acquired a small but very unusual collection of personal papers by the late Afro-Cuban artist and cultural promoter **Rafael Queneditt Morales (1942-2016)**. Queneditt was the founder of **Grupo Antillano (1978-1983)**, an art collective that articulated an Afro-centric vision of the Cuban nation and that articulated a rather unique Afro-Cuban cultural movement around its exhibits. Queneditt's own work was frequently a celebration of the Orishas, the deities of the Afro-Cuban Yoruba pantheon. Cuba Studies Program Chair Alejandro de la Fuente published a book about the Group, *Grupo Antillano: The Art of Afro-Cuba*, and organized an exhibit that toured in Santiago de Cuba, Havana, New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia and that was at Harvard in 2014. The collection contains four types of materials: exhibit catalogs of Queneditt's personal exhibits (1969-1980s) and of Grupo Antillano (1978-83); guest books for Grupo Antillano's first exhibit in 1978, with comments by visitors; books with photographs of Queneditt's work (late 1960s-late 1970s); and a collection of his personal slides, with color pictures of his 1970s work.

CUBA STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

The program allows students to spend a semester studying at the **University of Havana** where they enroll directly in courses of their choosing across campus and attend classes with Cuban university students. It introduces Harvard College students to critical issues in Cuban history, culture, and contemporary Cuban society. During the period of 2014-2017, fifteen Harvard undergraduates studied abroad in Havana.

Course offerings at the University of Havana range from Afro-Cuban studies, history, literature, or film to economics, psychology, geography, math or biodiversity courses. Cuban scholars who have completed research stays at DRCLAS as Cuban Visiting Scholars also provide students with ongoing mentoring and guidance in varying fields for research projects and other academic interests.

Overall, the program provides students with a strong network of support while encouraging a full immersion experience. Students spend time attending arts and cultural events, traveling through the island, exploring the city, and developing friendships with university students.

Since 2018, the CSP has collaborated with Brown University's Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad in Cuba (CASA Cuba). Four Harvard students joined the CASA-Cuba program in 2018.

Rainer Schultz with study abroad program participants in eastern Cuba.



Student Perspectives

"Cuba is always the exception to all the rules of Latin America. So it is an interesting chance to get to know a little bit about something that is very different from anything that I know."

—Reed Shaw, Social Studies, '17

"I am so glad that I came. It is hard to explain that just the entire way of thinking is based on different principles. You end up just peeling back a lot of assumptions that you have that you did not realize you had them."

—Lucy Burke, History and Literature, '17

"People should study abroad in Havana, Cuba, because you learn so much more about yourself. The limited wifi here allows you to disconnect from our increasingly technological world and be able to step back and reevaluate both your own life, what you are doing, and think about the future. Cuban people are genuinely so friendly and willing to talk to you. I have learned so much more here in one semester than I have at Harvard in any typical semester."

—Itzel Vasquez-Rodríguez, Sociology '17

"It is exactly what I wanted. I had an idea of what Cuba would be but that was incorrect, but it still matched my interests. I have grown I think a lot more than I would have in a different country."

—Austin Muller, Social Studies, '17

"It is incredibly safe, it is easy to travel here. I like the day to day, just walking through the streets of Havana. It is incredibly fun."

—Micaela Ceballos, Sociology, '16



The CAUSA Alumni reunion on November 7, 2017 had the pleasure of hosting one of the original co-founders of CAUSA, Carlos Zumpano, along with other CAUSA alumni for an event that brought both alumni and undergraduates together. It was an evening filled with good food and conversation as members of CAUSA got to network and connect with previous members. The discussions ranged from prospective careers to conversations about missing Cuban food and culture. Some speeches were made both by students and alumni about how much CAUSA has meant to them and the hope that the community will continue to grow in the future. The CAUSA Alumni reunion was truly a chance for Harvard Cuban community to come together and reconnect.

CUBA VISITING SCHOLARS

Since 2014 and through 2019, the Center has hosted over 20 visiting scholars from Cuba for extended periods of research in fields as diverse as archival preservation, economics, history, intellectual property law, literature, political science, and public administration, among others.

Ailynn Torres Santana

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Sociologist, FLASCO-University of Havana

Danny González Lucena

Journalist and independent filmmaker

Leida Fernández-Prieto

Historian, Institute of History at Spanish National Research Council

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PEOPLE

Alejandro de la Fuente

Cuba Studies Program Chair, 2013-present

Robert Woods Bliss Professor of Latin American
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