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A Voice of Otherness: The Catholic Church in the Cuban Revolutionary Reality, 1959-1986 Lecture by Petra Kuivala

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



A Voice of Otherness:

The Catholic Church in the Cuban Revolutionary Reality, 1959–1986

Lecture by Petra Kuivala

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library (GL) 220

Essentially Cuban yet intrinsically foreign, the Catholic Church has been present in Cuban society throughout the revolutionary period—yet mutual tension and conflict has characterized the relation between the church and the Cuban state. This presentation will analyze how the Catholic Church has consciously developed an idea of Cuban Catholicism both as a reaction and a precaution in regard to the Cuban social context. This has led to an emergence of a distinct Cuban ecclesiastical identity of the Catholic Church. Within the revolutionary reality, the church has represented itself as a voice of otherness while aiming to obtain active agency in Cuban society.

Petra Kuivala is a doctoral researcher in theology in University of Helsinki, Finland. She holds master's and bachelor's degrees in theology from the same institution. She is working on her doctoral dissertation, titled "The Identity and Development of the Catholic Church in Revolutionary Cuba, 1959–1986." The dissertation examines the ecclesiological identity and theology of the Catholic Church within the the Revolution, based on previously unstudied archival sources of the Catholic Church in Cuba and oral histories of Cuban Catholics. The dissertation will be published in 2018. Ms. Kuivala is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at FIU's Cuban Research Institute.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please call (305) 348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu.

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