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# Sugar and Revolution ( A Requiem) , Lecture by Duanel Díaz Infante

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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# Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



## Sugar and Revolution (A Requiem)

Lecture by Duanel Díaz Infante

May 7, 2013 | 12:00pm | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | DM 353  
(Conference Room)

Duanel Díaz Infante graduated from the University of Havana in 2002 and received his Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese from Princeton University in 2012. He is currently a visiting assistant professor of Spanish at Bucknell University. He has widely published articles and essays on Cuban literature and intellectual history. His most recent book is entitled *Palabras del trasfondo: Intelectuales, literatura e ideología en la Revolución Cubana* (Editorial Colibrí, 2009). He is a recipient of the 2013 Díaz Ayala Library Travel Grant at FIU.

Throughout the last century, Cuban historians and writers have depicted sugar mills as diabolic monsters, while fire in the cane fields has been a major metaphor for revolution. Rather than the counterpoint of tobacco and sugar, the underlying counterpoint of Cuban history would be this major opposition between sugar and revolution. This talk intends to investigate the topic by revisiting a number of works related to both the revolution of 1933 (by Fernando Ortiz, Luis Felipe Rodríguez, Alberto Lamar Schweyer) and that of 1959 (Edmundo Desnoes, Antonio Benítez Rojo, Reinaldo Arenas). With the dismantling of the sugar industry undertaken by the Cuban government in the last decade, Dr. Díaz Infante argues that the counterpoint has come to a paradoxical end: the monster is finally extinguished, but so is the very idea of revolution. There are no more cane fields to set on fire.

Cosponsored by FIU's Cuban Research Institute, Latin American and Caribbean Center, and the FIU Libraries. The lecture will be in Spanish. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP is required. For additional information and to RSVP, call (305) 348-1991 or email [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu).