

4-9-2014

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Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



¿Jamaicanos o jamaiquinos? Respectable Blackness and Its Implications for Anti-Racist Activism in 21st-Century Cuba

Lecture by Andrea Queeley

April 9, 2014 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | GL 220

During the first half of the 20th century, Cuba became the destination point of well over 100,000 black migrants from the Anglophone Caribbean, primarily Jamaica. Many of them remained on the island, creating their own distinct communities and ultimately contributing another ingredient to the Cuban *ajiaco*. In the 1990s at the height of the Special Period when racial inequality was on the rise, the children and grandchildren of these immigrants moved to “rescue their roots” by revitalizing these community institutions. Based upon ethnographic research conducted in Santiago and Guantánamo, this presentation first provides an analysis of this revitalization and then considers the implications of these findings for emergent anti-racist activism on the island.

Andrea Queeley is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology who holds a joint appointment in the Global and Sociocultural Studies Department and the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at FIU. Her research focuses on Caribbean migration, the African diaspora in Latin America, and the politics of belonging. Her book manuscript, *Rescuing Our Roots: Respectable Blackness and the Anglo-Caribbean Diaspora in Contemporary Cuba*, is currently under contract with the University Press of Florida.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, call (305) 348-1991 or email cri@fiu.edu.