

10-10-2013

# Living in Transition: The Politics of Popular Music in Contemporary Cuba , Lecture by Nora Gámez Torres

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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## Recommended Citation

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, "Living in Transition: The Politics of Popular Music in Contemporary Cuba , Lecture by Nora Gámez Torres" (2013). *Cuban Research Institute Events*. 34.  
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# Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



## Living in Transition: The Politics of Popular Music in Contemporary Cuba

Lecture by Nora Gámez Torres

October 10, 2013 | 9:30 AM

FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Ryder Business Building, Room 140

This presentation examines the emergence of alternative and oppositional values in Cuban society through an analysis of contemporary popular music. With particular emphasis on hip-hop and reggaeton and based on fieldwork conducted in Havana, the presentation explores how popular music has participated in the negotiation of social change during the last two decades in Cuba and how this process is connected to counter-hegemonic practices. Dr. Nora Gámez Torres argues that popular music works as an alternative cultural sphere, a space for the “rehearsal of politics” and a form of politics itself in contemporary Cuba. In addressing the politics of various musical genres and scenes, Dr. Gámez Torres contextualizes popular music discourses in relation to broader issues of race, class, gender, emigration, national identity, and the Cuban state’s strategies of control.

Nora Gámez Torres is a Cuban scholar who obtained her Ph.D. in Sociology at the City University London in 2012. She also holds a Master in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and graduated with honors from the University of Havana, with a B.A. and a Master in Social Communication. She was an Assistant Professor at the School of Communication at the University of Havana from 2001 to 2009. Her article “Hearing the Change: Reggaeton and Emergent Values in Contemporary Cuba” appeared in volume 33 of the *Latin American Music Review*.

For additional information and to RSVP, please call (305) 348-1991 or email [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu).