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# Larger than Life: The King of Rumba and His Incredible Story

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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# Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



## Larger Than Life: The King of Rumba and His Incredible Story

**Lecture by Galina Bakhtiarova**

**March 27, 2013 | 3:30pm | Modesto A. Maidique Campus | RDB 1100**

American band leader Xavier Cugat (1901-1990), self-proclaimed King of Rumba, was a household name in the United States for decades in the mid-twentieth century. Born in Catalonia and trained as a classical violinist in Cuba, Cugat cultivated a unique brand of exotic tropical melodies that popularized Latino music throughout the world. This lecture will explore Xavier Cugat's career and his contribution to the appreciation of Latino music world-wide in the context of the cultural history of the twentieth century.

Galina Bakhtiarova is an associate professor of Spanish at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. She received her Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She writes on nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish, Catalan and Caribbean culture. Her essays and book chapters have appeared in *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, *Quaderns-e del Institut Català d'Atropologia*, *Memoria colonial e inmigración: La negritud en la España posfranquista* (2006), *Transatlantic Conflict and Consensus* (2008) and *Sex and Sexuality in a Feminist World* (2009), among others.

The event is free and open to the public. For additional information and to RSVP call CRI at (305)348-1991. Event is co-sponsored by FIU College of Architecture and the Arts (CARTA).