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Can Technologies and Social Media Accelerate Cuba's Democratization?

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



Can Technologies and Social Media Accelerate Cuba's Democratization?

Lecture by Yoani Sánchez

April 1, 2013 | 7:30 p.m. | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Wertheim Performing Arts Center

Yoani Sánchez is a Cuban blogger and independent journalist. She holds a bachelor's degree in Hispanic philology from the University of Havana. In 2002, she emigrated to Switzerland but returned to Cuba two years later. She then founded the digital magazine *Consenso*, which evolved into the web portal *Desde Cuba*. She is the author of the books *Cuba Libre: Vivir y escribir en La Habana* (2010), translated as *Havana Real: One Woman Fights to Tell the Truth about Cuba Today* (2011), and *Word Press: Un blog para hablar al mundo* (2011). Since 2007, Sánchez has provided the outside world with an insider's view of Cuba via her blog, *Generación Y* (Generation Y). The blog is translated into 17 languages and receives 14 million hits per month. She has achieved international fame and earned multiple international awards for her critical portrayal of life in contemporary Cuba. *Time* magazine listed her as one of the world's 100 most influential people in 2008. President Barack Obama has praised her blog as a tool to empower Cubans through the use of technology.

The lecture will be in Spanish with simultaneous translation in English.

The event is cosponsored by the School of International and Public Affairs, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Latin American and Caribbean Center, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, and Cuban American Bar Association.

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