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# Revolution within the Revolution: Women and Gender Politics in Cuba, 1952-1962

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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# Green School at Books & Books

Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## Revolution within the Revolution: Women and Gender Politics in Cuba, 1952–1962

Book Presentation by Author Michelle Chase

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 | 8:00 PM | Books & Books | 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables

The story of women's part in the Cuban revolutionary struggle has only now received comprehensive consideration in Michelle Chase's history of women and gender politics in revolutionary Cuba. This book restores to history women's participation in the all-important urban insurrection and in pushing for women's political inclusion after the revolution came to power. Tracing changes in political attitudes alongside evolving gender ideologies in the years leading up to the revolution, Chase describes how insurrectionists mobilized familiar gendered notions, such as maternal sacrifice, in ways that strengthened the coalition against Fulgencio Batista. After 1959, Chase shows, women pushed the leadership to address problems within the private sphere such as food provisioning, domestic labor, and childrearing, thus raising more transformative notions of women's liberation and gender reform. This book thereby resists Fidel Castro's triumphant claim that women's liberation was handed to them as a "revolution within the revolution."

Dr. Michelle Chase is Assistant Professor of History and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Bloomfield College, where she has taught since 2011. She holds a Ph.D. in History from New York University. Her work has been supported by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. She has published articles and book reviews in journals such as *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, *Journal of American History*, and *The Sixties*. She has also written about contemporary Cuba for *The Nation*, *Al Jazeera America*, *Boston Review*, and *NACLA*.

Cosponsored by the Cuban Heritage Collection (UM Libraries), this event is free and open to the public. To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu).

Author photograph by Donnelly Marks Photography.