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# Myth, Fiction, and Reality in A Yoruba Saga

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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# Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## Myth, Fiction, and Reality in *A Yoruba Saga*

Lecture by Matías Montes Huidobro

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library 220

In this presentation, Dr. Matías Montes Huidobro will discuss the relationship among myth, history, current events, academic research, and the creative process within his novel *Una saga yoruba* (2016). The novel's structure is based on *patakies*, traditional oral narratives used by Yorubas to preserve their culture. The action and characterization of the main *orishas* (divinities) are developed with a psychological twist that gives them a more contemporary perspective. The narrative moves from the creation of the universe by Olofi Olodumare to the sometimes melodramatic adventures of Obatalá's family in Havana, Guanabacoa, and the Sanctuary of the Virgin del Cobre, complemented by a touch of pop culture and a postmodern supporting cast that includes Fella Kutti and Celia Cruz, among others.

Matías Montes Huidobro is a Cuban playwright, novelist, and poet. He is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Hawaii, where he taught for more than 30 years. His essays have been published in numerous scholarly publications in the United States and abroad. Many of his plays have been included in anthologies and produced for the stage, among them *Un objeto de deseo* (2006), *Exilio* (1988), *Las vacas* (1960), and *Sobre las mismas rocas* (1951). His 1975 novel, *Desterrados al fuego*, was awarded a prize by the Fondo de Cultura Económica in Mexico and *Esa fuente de dolor* (1997) received the Premio Café Gijón in Spain. His poetry collection, *Un salmo quisiera ser*, was published in 2015.

The presentation will be in English with excerpts from the novel read in Spanish. This event is free and open to the public. To confirm your attendance, please call (305) 348-1991 or write [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu).