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Cubanness in the Lyrics of the *Guaracha*: National Identity beyond Appearances

Lecture by Liliana Casanella Cué

Thursday, May 12, 2016 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Deuxième Maison (DM) 353

The lyrics of the Cuban *guaracha* have undoubtedly acquired social relevance during various time periods, not only because of their formal elements and contents, but because of what they represent in the formation, visibilization, and legitimation of *lo cubano* (Cubanness). A preliminary approach, then, entails understanding how the discourse of the *guaracha* is incorporated into the identity processes and sociocultural dynamics on the Island, beyond appearances. Based on the generic and musical characterization of the *guaracha* and the identification of the social spaces where it has developed, this lecture will analyze a textual corpus to explore how its various models surpass musical fashions to maintain its attachment to the essential characteristics of Cubanness.

Liliana Casanella Cué is a researcher at the Center for Research and Development of Cuban Music in Havana. She holds an M.A. in Music from the Higher Institute of Art in Havana and a B.A. in Philology from the University of Oriente in Cuba. She is the author of three books: *Orquesta Aragón: Más allá de la música* (2015); *Música popular bailable cubana: Letras y juicios de valor. Siglos XVII–XX* (2013); and *En defensa del texto* (2004). She has lectured widely in Cuba and other countries. She has received numerous recognitions for her musicological research, including those awarded by the Fundación Fernando Ortiz/Instituto Cubano del Libro (2014) and Casa de las Américas (2012). Ms. Casanella is a recipient of the 2016 Diaz-Ayala Library Travel Grant at FIU.

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