

5-13-2016

Urban Entrepreneurs in Cuba, 1920-1958

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Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, "Urban Entrepreneurs in Cuba, 1920-1958" (2016). *Cuban Research Institute Events*. 302.

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Urban Entrepreneurs in Cuba, 1920–1958

Lecture by Maikel Fariñas Borrego

Friday, May 13, 2016 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Deuxieme Maison (DM) 353

Between 1920 and 1958, many Cuban entrepreneurs affiliated themselves to civic associations such as Rotary Clubs. After the foundation of the first club in Havana numerous others were created using the same guiding patterns. But such expansion was not an isolated case among the many North American type of associations founded in Cuba after the independence. Rotary Clubs facilitated the creation of social groupings that transformed into lobbies and interest groups, advocating for the development of regional infrastructures, economic diversification, and industrialization. This lecture will explore the motivations for urban businessmen in Cuba to form and join these organizations and the importance they had on the Island.

Maikel Fariñas Borrego is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and his B.A. in History at the University of Havana. He is the author of the book *Sociabilidad y cultura del ocio: Las élites habaneras y sus clubes de recreo, 1902–1930* (2009) and several book chapters and journal articles on voluntary associations in republican Cuba. Mr. Fariñas Borrego is the first recipient of the Eliana Rivero Scholarship in Cuban Studies at FIU. He is currently working on his Ph.D. dissertation, entitled "Envisioning Capitalist Alternatives: The Emergence of Urban Entrepreneurs and the Politics of Influence in Cuba, 1920–1958."

The event is free and open to the public. To confirm your attendance, please call (305) 348–1991 or write cri@fiu.edu.