

6-4-2016

# Havana Manana: Cuba in the American Imagination

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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## Recommended Citation

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, "Havana Manana: Cuba in the American Imagination" (2016). *Cuban Research Institute Events*. 298.

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# Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## Havana Mañana: Cuba in the American Imagination

Lecture by Gustavo Pérez Firmat

Saturday, June 4, 2016 | 4:00 PM | The Wolfsonian-FIU | 1001 Washington Ave., Miami Beach

From Ricky Ricardo to Fidel Castro, from fine cigars to mojitos, from rumba girdles to conga lines, Cuba and things Cuban have exerted an enduring hold on the American imagination. For Americans, Cuba has been both mirror and mirage: a magnified reflection of domestic anxieties as well as a beckoning oasis of otherness. Drawing on a broad range of sources—songs, movies, ads, novels, tourist brochures—this lecture will explore the large role that this small island—so near and yet so foreign—has played in America's psychic life.

Born in Havana and raised in Miami, Dr. Gustavo Pérez Firmat is the David Feinson Professor of Humanities at Columbia University. A writer and scholar, he is the author of more than a dozen books, among them *A Cuban in Mayberry* (2014); *Life on the Hyphen* (1994/2012); *Next Year in Cuba* (1995/2000); *Scar Tissue* (2007); and *The Havana Habit* (2010). Part of his research for the latter book was conducted at the Wolfsonian-FIU, as well as at FIU's Diaz-Ayala Cuban and Latin American Popular Music Collection, when the author received a Library Travel Grant. He was educated at Miami-Dade Community College, the University of Miami, and the University of Michigan, where he earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. He taught at Duke University from 1979 to 1999.

This event is free and open to the public. Cosponsored by The Wolfsonian-FIU, the lecture is designed to accompany the exhibit "Promising Paradise: Cuban Allure, American Seduction" at The Wolfsonian-FIU, on view between May 6 and August 21, 2016. To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write [cri@fiu.edu](mailto:cri@fiu.edu).