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El Paquete Semanal: A Cuban Sharing Economy

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



***El Paquete Semanal:* A Cuban Sharing Economy Lecture by Jennifer Cearns**

Thursday, November 16, 2017 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Deuxième Maison (DM) 353

This lecture will explore the digital phenomenon of *El Paquete Semanal*, or “the Weekly Package,” a nationwide distribution network through which a Terabyte of films, music, apps, and more besides is moved across the island of Cuba on a weekly basis. It will contextualize this network within Cuba’s unique historical and political trajectory and propose a framework for understanding how *El Paquete* fits into a global chain of material and digital consumerism. Finally, it will examine the way value is created in this network in the light of widespread suggestions that *El Paquete* signals a move closer towards capitalism in Cuba.

Jennifer Cearns is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at University College, London, and is currently conducting 15 months of ethnographic fieldwork on material and digital flows between the Cuban diaspora in Miami and Cuba itself. Prior to that, she undertook her undergraduate and master’s degrees at the University of Oxford, and conducted extensive fieldwork in Brazil. She is generously supported by a UK Government Economic and Social Research Council Award and the Royal Anthropological Institute’s Emslie Horseman Scholarship. She is also Visiting Scholar at Florida International University’s Cuban Research Institute this year.

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.