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Framed Fictions of Blackness: Paintings, Photographs, and the Iconography of Crime in Cuba (1882-1933)

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Framed Fictions of Blackness: Paintings, Photographs, and the Iconography of Crime in Cuba (1882–1933)

Lecture by Alberto Sosa Cabanas

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 | 2:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Deuxième Maison (DM) 353

At the turn of the 20th century, Cuban paintings and photographs usually depicted black bodies as part of narratives in which blackness seems incompatible with notions of modernity and nation. Visual culture becomes a merging of discursive transformations that link class, race, and identity and bring to a fore controversial representations of blackness. Many of these representations legitimate popular ideas about the relations among Afro-Cuban culture, corporeality, and the underworld. This lecture will explore multiple visual expressions, particularly samples from Cuban ethnographic photography and pictorial works, to understand the negotiation of Cuban racial imaginaries and politics.

Alberto Sosa Cabanas is a Ph.D. candidate in Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages at Florida International University. He focuses on 19th- and 20th-century Latin American and Caribbean literatures and cultures. Mr. Sosa Cabanas holds an M.A. in Spanish and graduate certificates in both African and African Diaspora Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies from FIU. He earned his B.A. in Hispanic Literature and Linguistics (Summa Cum Laude) at the University of Havana. He has published several articles and reviews on literary topics. He has received the Eliana Rivero Scholarship in Cuban Studies at FIU as well as the Tinker Field Research Grant and a pre-doctoral fellowship at the Cuban Heritage Collection of the University of Miami Libraries.

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.