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Equality with Democracy: The Batilist Project in Uruguay as an Alternative to the Cuban Model

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Equality with Democracy: The Batllist Project in Uruguay as an Alternative to the Cuban Model

Lecture by Leonardo Martín

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library 220

During the first three decades of the 20th century, *Batllismo* (a majority political movement sponsored by the Partido Colorado, headed by José Batlle y Ordóñez) carried out an innovative project that laid the groundwork for a full Welfare State in Uruguay. A pioneer in the hemisphere and even in the world, *Batllismo* created the conditions for a society with a profound sense of equality and solidarity, combining an omnipresent State with an unlimited respect for institutions and political and individual liberty. The analysis of this process is relevant for contemporary Latin America and particularly for Cuba, where the search for equality and justice has been subordinated to authoritarian processes that put aside the respect for liberty and democracy. The old spirit of *Batllismo* may be useful to think about a future transition in the Cuban case.

Leonardo Martín teaches about various subject matters related to history, politics, and society at the ORT University in Montevideo, Uruguay. He holds an M.A. in History from the University of Montevideo and a B.A. in International Studies from the ORT University in Uruguay. He has been a producer, panelist, and columnist on several television and radio programs. He was General Editor and columnist of the digital magazine *Letras Internacionales*, published by the ORT University in Uruguay.

This event, to be conducted in Spanish, is free and open to the public.

Cosponsored by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

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