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Currency Conversions: Foreshadowing the End of Cuba's Dual Economy

Mrinalini Tankha

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Currency Conversions: Foreshadowing the End of Cuba's Dual Economy Lecture by Mrinalini Tankha

Friday, March 23, 2018 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library (GL) 220

Cuba's dual currency system has been a central facilitator of its ongoing economic restructuring and diversification since the 1990s. For the past few years, however, a much-awaited process has been initiated to eventually eliminate the Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC). Recent attempts at currency unification include listing prices in both currencies and accepting peso payments in *divisa* stores, printing higher denomination peso bills, and converging exchange rates in certain sectors. Based on ethnographic research, this talk will address the socio-cultural and political implications of the currency reform process to show how it partly dissolves economic bifurcation, but also throws into sharp relief over two decades of psychological separations and conflicting expectations of state and market spheres in Cuba.

Dr. Mrinalini Tankha is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Portland State University. Her research and teaching interests include theories of money and finance, political economy, sovereignty, informal economies, and cultural histories of Cuba, Latin America, and the Caribbean. She is currently working on a book manuscript titled *The New Cuban Counterpoint: Money, Value, and Sovereignty in Post-Soviet Havana*.

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

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