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# Language, Lifestyle, and Identity in Puerto Rico

Anna Kaganiec-Kamienska

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# Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## Language, Lifestyle, and Identity in Puerto Rico Lecture by Anna Kaganiec-Kamińska

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 | 12:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Deuxième Maison (DM) 353

Although both Spanish and English have been co-official languages in Puerto Rico since 1902 (with a brief interlude of Spanish-only from 1991 to 1993), Puerto Rico is not a bilingual society. The two languages derive their prestige from different sources and are not used equally in all domains. Spanish, as the national language, is symbolic of the Puerto Rican tradition. In turn, English is associated with socioeconomic prestige and attractive employment opportunities. However, individual language choices today seem to be influenced also by the global context and technological advancements in communication and media, among other factors. This new “global lifestyle,” an integral part of which is the English language, leads to questions about current language attitudes in Puerto Rico and the relationship among language, lifestyle, and identity.

**Dr. Anna Kaganiec-Kamińska** is an associate professor at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Jagiellonian University and master’s degrees in English and Spanish languages and cultures from the Silesian University in Katowice, Poland. She is interested in language policies and identity formation in Puerto Rico and Latin America. She is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at FIU’s Cuban Research Institute.

**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](mailto:cri@fiu.edu).

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