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Hollywood in Havana: US Cinema and Revolutionary Nationalism in Cuba before 1959: Book Presentation by Megan Feeney

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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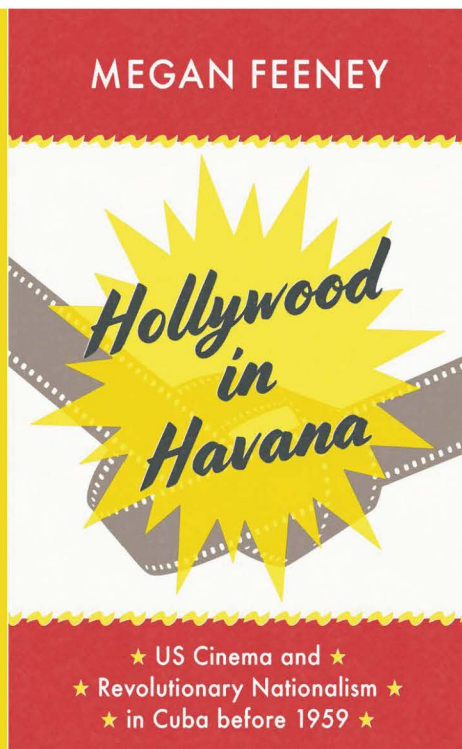
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The Green School at Books & Books

Cuban Research Institute



Hollywood in Havana: US Cinema and Revolutionary Nationalism in Cuba before 1959

Book Presentation by Megan Feeney

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 | 6:30 PM | Books & Books | 265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables

Hollywood in Havana explores the role of US movies in the social, economic, and cultural life of republican-era Havana and, relatedly, in the exercise of US power on the island. Starting in the 1920s, the major Hollywood studios operated branch offices in Central Havana, from where they dominated the city's ubiquitous movie theaters, film columns, and fanzines. The US State and Commerce Departments worked to ensure Hollywood's domination, convinced as they were that US films promoted US goods and even US global power abroad among foreign audiences.

Contrary to the US government's optimism that Hollywood would "bond" Cubans to the US, Professor Feeney finds that Cuban intellectuals and revolutionary activists bent Hollywood's powerful (but politically ambiguous) influence to their own, ultimately anti-imperialist, ends. Feeney focuses on the reception of two midcentury Hollywood genres—the anti-fascist war film and the postwar film noir—to show how Cubans translated Hollywood ethics into revolutionary rhetoric (and even armed action) that demanded purer forms of Cuban democracy and national sovereignty, and excoriated the US as an impediment to both.

Dr. Megan Feeney is an independent scholar and was previously a visiting assistant professor of history and film studies at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. She earned her Ph.D. in the Department of American Studies at the University of Minnesota.

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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