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Nostalgia and el pregón: The Return of Street-Vendor Songs in Cuba; Lecture by Andres Garcia Molina

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Nostalgia and *el pregón*: The Return of Street-Vendor Songs in Cuba Lecture by Andrés García Molina

Thursday, May 23, 2019 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library (GL) 220

As a result of policies that introduce and regulate limited forms of self-employment, street vendors have returned to populate Cuban streets during the 21st century, ushering in a new iteration of a long tradition of street-vendor songs. Having virtually disappeared after 1959 and eventually declared “relics of national folklore” (Barnet 1978), their resurgence is part of a broad transformation in Cuban everyday life. Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Havana between 2015 and 2019, Andrés García Molina will examine the intertwined notions of nostalgia and musicality that characterize everyday speech and valuations of contemporary street-vendor songs. When discussing their return, conversations often invoke nostalgia of a particular imaginary hearkening back to a time prior to the momentous 1959 Cuban Revolution.

Andrés García Molina is a Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology at Columbia University. He holds an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. He is part of the editorial board of *Current Musicology* and a contributing editor for *Cultural Anthropology*. His research has been funded by the Social Science Research Council and the Mellon Foundation. He is one of the recipients of the 2019 Díaz-Ayala Library Travel Grants at FIU.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

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