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Souvenirs from Hialeah: Hiccup, Ethnography, and Socially Engaged Art, Lecture by Ariana Hernández-Reguant and Ernesto Oroza

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Souvenirs from Hialeah: Hiccup, Ethnography, and Socially Engaged Art
Lecture by Ariana Hernández-Reguant and Ernesto Oroza
November 18, 2014 | 12:00 PM | Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library 220

Hialeah remains invisible in the international circulation of commodity souvenirs, even though it is there where the object becomes an actual souvenir from a real place, Miami. As an industrial periphery, immigrant, and ESL-dominated community, it remains on the margins of both social theory and the creative industries. Yet it is these types of non-gentrifiable neighborhoods that constantly rework and reinvent social and political values and citizenship practices in the United States. The Hialeah Contemporary Culture Project (HICCUP) seeks to highlight the gap between ideal visions of society and actual experiences of place by, on the basis of ethnographic research, involving various community groups in dialogue and debate to generate creative interventions or “hicups.” Ariana Hernández-Reguant and Ernesto Oroza will present their collaborative work-in-progress in Hialeah, which has been recently recognized by the Knight Foundation.

Ariana Hernández-Reguant is a cultural anthropologist whose research, writings, and organizational interventions have focused on art practice, intangible value and property, and expressive freedom. As a professor and proponent of ethnographic methodologies for social and artistic practice, she has trained many artists and media studies students engaged in social practice and community work. Her ethnographic research to date has taken place in Washington, D.C., Havana, the Tijuana-San Diego border region, and Hialeah.

Ernesto Oroza is an artist, designer, and author based in South Florida. He graduated from Havana’s Superior Institute of Design and was later a professor in both Havana and Paris. His practice is geared to highlighting and critically understanding human-object interactions and the role that collective engagements with material culture have in the making of community. He is the author of several books on popular creativity as expressed in tool objects and the urban environment.

This event is free and open to the public. To RSVP and for more information, please call (305) 348–1991 or write cri@fiu.edu.