Mambomania: The Explosion of Cuban Popular Dance Styles in the 1940s and 1950s

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Mambomanía: 
The Explosion of Cuban Popular Dance Styles in the 1940s and 1950s
A Lecture by Sarah Town

June 1, 2012 | 12:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | DM 353

Sarah Town, recipient of the 2012 FIU Travel Grant awarded by the FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center and FIU Libraries to conduct research in FIU’s Diaz-Ayala Cuban and Latin American Popular Music Collection, is a first year graduate student in musicology at Princeton University, having completed a Masters in Musicology at City College of New York, and a BA in History, Portuguese, and Latin American studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her main research interests lie in popular dance music of Cuba and Latin America; popular and folkloric dance styles; diasporic music and transnational collaborations; and the music of Cuba’s post-revolutionary vanguard.

Sarah will discuss the proliferation of popular dance music genres in Cuba during the 1940s and 1950s. She will follow the evolution of the danzón’s nuevo ritmo in 1939 and bandleaders from Arsenio Rodríguez to Dámaso Pérez Prado who experimented with new formal musical structures and band formats. She will discuss how, within this context, the role of traditional Afro Cuban percussion – both instrumentation and rhythmic ideas – began to expand greatly. In addition to looking at innovations in the 1940s and 1950s, Sarah is interested in exploring continuities and discontinuities between pre- and post-revolutionary musical developments.

Co-sponsored by the Cuban Research Institute at FIU and FIU Libraries

Lunch will be provided but space is limited. RSVP required. For additional information or to RSVP call 305-348-2894 or e-mail at cri@fiu.edu