

2019 NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE
LECTURE ABSTRACTS AND REQUIRED READINGS

WEEK 1: THE IMMIGRANT WORLD OF YBOR CITY AND KEY WEST, 1860-1900

Dr. Gary Mormino, "The Immigrant World of Ybor City, 1886-1900"

Dr. Mormino is the co-author of the most comprehensive and authoritative history of the immigrant communities of Ybor City and West Tampa, *The Immigrant World of Ybor City: Italians and Their Latin Neighbors in Tampa, 1885-1985* (U of Illinois P, 1987). The inaugural lecture will take the participants on a voyage to late-19th century Florida, introducing them to the Cuban cigar workers, Spanish entrepreneurs and Sicilian laborers that found common cause and built a city in a forgotten corner of the deep South. After the lecture, Dr. Mormino will guide participants on a walking tour of Ybor City where they will visit many of the original structures where this history took place.

Dr. Kenya Dworkin-Méndez, "The Cultural World of the Cigar Worker"

Tampa, Florida, the earliest incubator of popular, Spanish-language theater in the southeast of the United States, began in 1887, and soon took on a decidedly Cuban and then Tampa immigrant tone reflective of the immigrant enclave's continued ties to its homelands, particularly Cuba. It is now possible to trace this genre from 1886 on, identify its "golden age" and analyze major issues in it such as ideology, race, gender, inter-ethnic relations, and identity in this transnational, pre-1959, majority, Cuban immigrant enclave.

Dr. Susan Greenbaum, "Mas que Negro: The Anti-racism of José Martí and its Fading Influence in Post-Cuban Independence Florida"

Convergent anti-slavery and anti-colonial sentiments aided early efforts to secure Cuban independence from Spain, involving many free people of color with military or literary expertise. However, racism offered a convenient wedge enabling Spanish efforts to sow discord with the pervasive specter of Haitian revolutionists. Martí's unusual anti-racism, the eloquence of his arguments, and friendship with leading Afro-Cubans in Tampa eased that hazard and helped maintain solidarity. After his death, and US preemption of the struggle, Jim Crow emerged as a vicious counterpoint for black Cubans who remained in Tampa. This paper explores the trajectory of this contradiction through three generations.

Dr. Gerald Poyo, "Key West's Revolutionary Community"

Discussion of the establishment and development of Key West's revolutionary community. How did a community with an enduring commitment to Cuban independence survive over thirty years? This includes economic, political, social and institutional factors, and their impact on keeping the independence movement in the Cuban people's minds for thirty years.

Required readings

- Mormino, Gary and Pozzetta, George. *The Immigrant World of Ybor City: Italians and Their Latin Neighbors in Tampa, 1885-1985*. University Press of Florida, 1998. [selected chapters]
- Dworkin-Méndez, Kenya. "From Factory to Footlights: Original Spanish-language Cigar Workers' Theatre in Ybor City and West Tampa, Florida." In *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage. Vol. III* (2000): 332-50.
- . "La patria que nace de lejos: Cuba, lo 'nacional,' y la tradición cultural de los tabaqueros cubanos en Tampa." In *Cuban Studies* 36 (2005): 1-22. [available for participants who can read in Spanish]
- Greenbaum, Susan. Afro-Cubans in Tampa. In Miriam Jimenez Roman & Juan Flores (eds.) *The Afro-Latin@ Reader: History and Culture in the United States*. Duke University Press (2010): 51-61. [selected chapters]
- Poyo, Gerald E. *Exile and Revolution: José D. Poyo, Key West, and Cuban Independence* (Gainesville: Florida University Press, 2014). [selected chapters]

WEEK TWO: JOSÉ MARTÍ AT THE INTERSECTION OF EMPIRES

Dr. James López, "José Martí, 1853-1895: Chronology of an Exile"

In preparation for Week Two's focus on José Martí's organization of the Cuban Revolutionary Party among the cigar workers of Tampa and Key West, Dr. López will provide a detailed and integrated overview of Martí's life and work, with an emphasis on how the experience of exile and his yearning to create an ideal homeland for Cubans that would serve as a model of social justice and racial unity guided his work as a journalist, educator, poet and revolutionary activist.

Hon. Emiliano J. Salcines, "José Martí in Tampa: 20 Documented Visits"

The last three years of his life, Jose Martí came to Tampa 20 times. He loved Tampa. He called Tampa "el pueblo fiel" – the loyal people of Tampa. Tampa became a part of Martí and Martí became a part of Tampa. He said of Tampa – "aquí ya todo está hecho", meaning everything has already been done in Tampa. This interactive presentation will take the participants on a voyage back in time, tracing José Martí's unique and close relationship with the cigar workers of Tampa. Judge Salcines will show us all there is to know about Martí in Tampa, where he went, who he saw, where he slept, where he ate, where he visited, where he gave his most famous speeches, where he drafted the fundamental principles of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, who were his most trusted confidants, and how he was able to convince the cigar makers of Tampa to give one day's salary a week to the cause of Cuban independence. Retired Judge Emiliano José (EJ) Salcines of the District Court of Appeal is a native of Tampa and the son of immigrants from Spain that came to Tampa through Cuba. He was a lawyer by profession for more than 53 years and has had a multi-faceted career. He is a noted Tampa historian who hosts weekly television documentaries on Tampa history and has published many articles on José Martí and Tampa's rich Latin history.

Mr. Gabriel Cartaya: "José Martí's Patria and the Cuban immigrants of Tampa"

It was in Tampa, during Martí's first visit in November 1891, that the Cuban Revolutionary Party began to take shape. A few weeks later the foundational meetings of the new organization were held in Key West. From that moment on, the immigrant labor communities of these two new cities became the most enthusiastic supporters of Martí's project to organize the Cuban diaspora for a third and final war of independence. Considerable sums of money were raised and sent to Martí and to Benjamín Guerra, his Treasurer, which permitted the establishment of an extensive network to disseminate the democratic, republican and anti-colonial ideas that guided the Cuban Revolutionary Party, as well as the purchasing of arms and outfitting of expeditions that made possible the initiation of hostilities in 1895. Some of the most significant personalities among these immigrant communities will be highlighted, as well as the growth of revolutionary clubs and other forms of political organization among Cubans, Puerto Ricans and other nationalities, united by the common desire to liberate Cuba and overthrow the Spanish colonial regime.

Martí scholar Gabriel Cartaya is also the Spanish-language editor of *La Gaceta*, the nation's only tri-lingual newspaper, founded among and for the cigar workers of Ybor City and West Tampa by the current editor-in-chief, Patrick Manteiga's, grandfather. This lecture will discuss the circumstances and nature of the emotional and intellectual bonds that united José Martí and the immigrant workers of Tampa, and how that connection led to a shared sense of nationhood, or *Patria*, that resonates to this day as the patriotic ideal in Cuban culture.

Dr. Esther Allen, "José Martí as a U.S. Writer"

"Nothing will kill a man for you," quipped the French Surrealist Jacques Vaché, "like being forced to represent a country"—a line Julio Cortázar adopted as one of the epigraphs to his 1963 novel *Rayuela* (*Hopscotch*).

There are few writers of whom this is less true than José Martí, who explicitly, purposefully devoted his entire life to the founding of the Cuban nation. There are also few writers of whom it is truer. Not only was Martí killed in a war while representing a country, but his exclusive identification with that country, particularly within the United States, has led to a great loss for what here is called "American" literature. Precisely because he did not seek assimilation or citizenship within the nation where he spent most of his adult life, and to which he devoted a considerable proportion of his literary powers, Martí's outsider vision is a hugely necessary corrective to the homogenized, monolingual view of the Gilded Age of the 1880s that still prevails, and has a great deal of relevance for the neo-Gilded Age we are now living through. His work poses a thorny question for literary history: Can we assess a writer with respect to a national literature without making nationalist claims on him, or making his work serve nationalist purposes?

Dr. Anne Fountain, “José Martí and American Thinkers”

José Martí’s knowledge of U.S. authors affected his life, his political perspectives and his writing. In the nearly fifteen years that Martí lived in the United States, he liberally absorbed ideas and concepts from American writers, especially Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman. Emerson’s ideas permeate Martí’s work after 1882 and are a presence in the Cuban’s most popular poetry, *Versos Sencillos*. Whitman’s verses reinforced Martí’s deep humanitarian and democratic instincts and confirmed the importance of new poetry for a new hemisphere. American writers exerted a significant influence on the Cuban writer, and this presentation will offer notable examples.

Dr. Anne Fountain, “José Martí and Race in America”

Martí’s time in the United States coincided with the aftermath of Reconstruction, a reliving of Civil War events, and a recounting of the efforts of U.S. abolitionists. Martí reported on brutal attacks against former slaves in the South as well as on the success of educated blacks in the North. His accounts described the racial climate of the time and ideas such as Social Darwinism. Challenges faced by poor immigrants from Europe and by Chinese laborers are also part of the picture. This presentation highlights how U.S. race relations influenced Martí’s plans for racial harmony in Cuba.

Required readings

Fountain, Anne. *José Martí, the United States, and Race*. University Press of Florida, 2014. [selected chapters]

---. *José Martí and U. S. Writers*. (University Press of Florida, 2003).

Martí, José. *Selected Writings*. Trans. Esther Allen. (Penguin Classics, 2002). [A number of essays required for this Institute will be selected from this translation, including:

- “My Race”
- “A Town Sets a Black Man on Fire”
- “The Lynching of the Italians”
- “Earthquake in Charleston”
- “To Cuba!”
- “The Truth About the United States”
- “Our America”
- “Emerson”
- “The Poet Walt Whitman”
- “The Montecristi Manifesto”
- “Letter to Manuel Mercado”

WEEK THREE: THE SPANISH-CUBAN-AMERICAN WAR: CUBAN INDEPENDENCE AND U.S. INTERVENTION

Dr. Michael Conniff, "The War of 1898: U.S. Intervention in the War for Cuban Independence I and II"

The lectures will address the war of 1898 in the larger context of the nineteenth century, paying particular attention to the forms in which the history of Cuba and the United States converged in a fateful climax, thereupon setting in motion much of the history that follows in the twentieth century. Cuban war to end one empire served as the basis of the emergence of the U.S. empire.

John Tone, "War and Genocide in Cuba, 1895-1898"

José Martí's brave and unrealistic vision for an independent Cuba did not survive the realities of the war he helped unleash to achieve that independence. The Cuban War of Independence (1895-1898) failed to resolve regional, racial, economic, and political divisions among Cubans. Indeed, in many ways, it exacerbated them. This lecture will examine how this came to pass as a result of the nature of warfare in Cuba and the effects of American intervention.

Dr. Denis Rey, "The Geopolitical Consequences of the Spanish-American War"

Participants will learn about the debate taking place in the US during the turn of the century, and leading up to the Spanish-American War, between those who advocated for imperial expansion and those anti-imperialists who embraced democratic principles of self-determination. Those who pushed for acquiring new territories eventually set the US on a path towards empire. American exceptionalism, the view that what's good for the US is good for the international system, has served as both a foreign policy objective and rationale since the winning of the "splendid little war." Participants will assess whether the US will continue to move in the same trajectory.

Required readings

Kinzer, Stephen. *The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2017. [Required: Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2; Recommended: Chapters 3-11]

Pérez, Louis. *The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. [select chapters]

Schoonover, Thomas. *Uncle Sam's War of 1898 and the origins of globalization*. (U Kentucky P: 2003) [select chapters]

Tone, John Lawrence. *War and Genocide in Cuba, 1895-1898*. Chapel Hill: 2006. [select chapters]

WEEK FOUR: CONSEQUENCES OF INTERVENTION

Dr. Robert Kerstein, "The Cigar City in the Decades after Cuban Independence"

The focus on this lecture will be the shifting coalitions in the city's politics during the first decade of the 20th Century and the transition to a political organization headed by D.B. McKay that dominated politics from 1910-20. Some Latins achieved limited political influence during this era, but the primary orientation of those who coalesced around Tampa's political regimes during these decades was to try to limit Latin labor unrest in the cigar industry, including the use of vigilante activity against strike leaders. During the 1920s, Tampa adopted a new form of government that further limited Latin influence over policymaking, and the vigilante activity against labor leaders continued.

Ms. Maura Barrios, M.A., "West Tampa: The Living Museum"

With an eye to the success of Ybor City, Hugh Macfarlane plotted 200 acres west of the Hillsborough River specifically for the lucrative cigar industry. Notably, Cuban patriots there built a three-story social club, Cespedes Hall, by 1894. The Hall became the center for Cuban independence activists, including the Ten Year War veteran, Fernando Figueredo Socarrás. Jose Martí visited this friend at his Main Street home on visits to Tampa. And the famous cigar that sparked the uprising of 1895 was rolled at the O'Halloran factory at Main and Howard. "Cuba Town" became the City of West Tampa, chartered in 1895 with Figueredo as its first mayor. And several Cubans became mayors in the following years, including the radical lector/mayor Francisco Milian.

Most tourists visiting Tampa will stroll 7th Avenue in Ybor City to enjoy restaurants, bars, music and maybe some Cuban history. While they will find all of these entertainments in the "Latin Quarter" they will not find many Cubans. The decline of the cigar industry after World War II left Ybor City a faded shadow of its golden age. White flight, urban renewal and a major interstate highway marked the end of the multi-cultural Cigar City by the early Sixties.

Luckily, the displaced Yborites moved to West Tampa where they could remain on familiar cultural ground. Spared the urban renewal wrecking ball, West Tampa retained the shotgun houses, bodegas, bakeries and cafes. The population expanded to the west and north of the Old West Tampa boundaries. Cuban culture flourished even more with the influx of exiles of the Cuban Revolution in the 1960s.

This presentation will argue that West Tampa, the living museum, relives its history on the murals, graffiti and surround-sound Spanish/English conversations each day at the cafes. It is a dramatic contrast to the tourist mecca of Ybor with its immigrant museum. Also, autonomy in the first 30 years allowed Cubans to enjoy political power that shaped the community for generations. Tampeño culture is alive and well in West Tampa.

Required readings

Kerstein, Robert. *Politics and Growth in Twentieth-Century Tampa*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001. [select chapters]

Participants will be pursuing their own reading interests at this point, facilitated by the faculty.