“I’m not a Racist”: Anti-Racialism and White Racial Attitudes

with Dr. Danielle Clealand

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The start of the Cuban Revolution marked a national silence concerning issues of race and racism on the island. One of the major components of Cuban racial ideology is the notion of anti-racialism, where 1) race is of little consequence to societal realities and 2) people, particularly as products of the revolution, do not harbor racist sentiments. The consequence, which is still present today despite the recent increase in racial dialogue, is a lack of reflection on what is racist and how racism operates on the island. A second and equally important consequence is the survival of anti-black attitudes and stereotypes that are often expressed in Cuba openly, yet are never deemed racist or harmful. Citizens are not made to think about their own attitudes regarding race and as a result, it remains a topic that is both untouched, yet pervasive.

Dr. Clealand's work examines whites' opinions regarding racism in Cuba today as well as the ways in which anti-black attitudes are expressed as a norm. She also examine whether racial relations are in fact harmonious according to Cubans of all races and highlight blacks' positions on racism in Cuba, particularly in their individual relations with whites.

Danielle Pilar Clealand is an assistant professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU. Her research focuses on comparative racial politics, racial ideology, nationalism, group consciousness and racial attitudes throughout the Americas. She has recently finished her manuscript, titled, Uncovering the Power of Race: Racial Ideology and Black Consciousness in Contemporary Cuba and has published in Ethnic and Racial Studies. She received her PhD in Political Science at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

This event is free and open to all FIU students and the public. For more information, call 305-348-7266.