

María A. Cabrera Arús

Curriculum Vita

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EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D. Candidate (ABD). Sociology. The New School for Social Research.
2009 M.A. Sociology. The New School for Social Research.
2004 M.Sc. Social Psychology. University of Havana.
1996 B.Sc. Psychology. University of Havana.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Material culture, sociology of culture, fashion, domestic space, consumption, state socialist regimes, comparative and historical sociology, late modernity.

Latin America, Hispanic Caribbean, Eastern Europe.

DISSERTATION

Dressed for the Party: Fashion and Politics in Socialist Cuba.

Committee of advisors: Virag Molnar, Assistant Professor of Sociology, New School for Social Research; Carlos Forment, Professor of Sociology, New School for Social Research; Rafael Rojas, Global Scholar, Princeton University.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles, under review

2015 “Pañoletas y polainas. Dinámicas de la moda en la Cuba soviética.” *Kamchatka*. 5 (forthcoming). Monographic number.

Book chapters, under review

“Cuba’s Socialist Utopia: A Material Culture Perspective.” In *Utopian Visions in Latin America*, edited by Sandra Brunnegger and Jason Pribilsky. Publication expected in 2015.

Work in progress

“Historicizing Fashion in the Revolutionary 1960s.” In *New Histories of the Cuban Revolution*, edited by Jennifer Lambe and Michel Bustamante. Publication expected in 2015.

“Politics and Industrial Design in Cuba: ONDI and ICIODI.” Invited submission to *Raisons Politiques*. Publication expected in 2016.

“Fashioning Politics in Socialist Cuba: A Material Culture Approach to the 1960s.” Manuscript submitted to *Sociological Theory*.

HONORS

Awards

2014 New Challenge Fund for Student Social Innovation. The New School.

Fellowships

2014-2015 Dissertation Fellowship Donnelly Fund Stipend. New School for Social Research.

2014-2015 Rothenberg-Janey Award. New School for Social Research.

2012-2013 Ruth Westheimer Maintenance of Status Fellowship. New School for Social Research.

2012 Janey Summer Field Research Grant. Janey Program in Latin America. The New School for Social Research.

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Invited Talks

2014 “Modernity at Home: Historicizing Politics and Fashion in Revolutionary Cuba.” Conference New Histories of the Cuban Revolution. Yale University, October 3-4.

2014 Workshop “Cuban Studies: Nuevas voces, nuevas perspectivas.” Cuba Chapter, Latin American Studies Association. LASA International Congress 2014: Democracy and Memory. Chicago, May 21-24.

2014 Speaker at Aperture Cuba. Conference cosponsored by Roots of Hope and Princeton University. New York, April 12.

2014 “The Unbearable Materiality of Socialism.” Beyond the Hyphen: Approaching a Post Geographic Cuba. Princeton University, April 9-10.

2014 “Material Culture and Archive: Cuba and the United States.” Lehman College, April 8.

2013 “La moda y la utopía de la modernidad socialista en Cuba.” Cuban Studies Conference. City University of New York and Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, October 4.

2013 “Cuban material culture: Modernity, Utopia, and Socialism.” Cuban Material Culture in Perspective. Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, City University of New York, March 1.

Conference Presentations

2015 “The Material Culture of the Domestic Space in Socialist Cuba.” Conference on Latin American History, American Historical Association Annual Meeting. New York, January 2.

2014 “Material Culture and Socialism: Cuba 1972-1986.” Latin American Studies Association International Congress 2014: Democracy and Memory. Chicago, IL, May 21-24.

2014 “Fashion, Utopia, and the Cuban Revolution.” Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars. University of Delaware, April 11-12.

2014 “Dynamics of Material Culture and Politics in Socialism.” New York University Sociology Graduate Student Conference. New York University, April 4.

2013 "The Utopia of Socialist Modernity in Late-Twentieth Century Cuba: A Material Culture Perspective." Latin American Utopian Visions Conference. Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Cambridge University, April 19-20.

2013 "The Politics of Socialist Modernity in Cuba." 8th Savannah Symposium "Modernities Across Time and Space." Savannah College of Art and Design, February 7-9.

2000 "Veinte años de diseño en Cuba." 6^{to} Encuentro de Diseño. Oficina Nacional de Diseño Industrial, Havana, June 7-9.

Campus Talks

2014 "Fashion and Cuba's Socialist Modernity." Observatory on Latin America Graduate Student Conference. The New School, April 24.

2013 "Some dynamics of Fashion and Socialism in Cuba: A Material Culture Perspective." Roundtable on Fashion Design Practice and Research in Latin America. Parsons the New School for Design, May 10.

2013 "The Politics of Materiality in Socialist Cuba." Sociology Conference "Politics of Materiality." New School for Social Research, April 6.

2012 "Material Culture and Socialism: Cuba, 1976-1989." Janey Annual Workshop in Latin America. New School for Social Research, November 13.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1996-2000 National Bureau of Industrial Design (ONDI). Havana, Cuba. Worked on a project investigating the history of industrial design in Cuba. Principal researcher.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fashion Cultures (graduate seminar). Parsons the New School for Design. Instructor of record, Spring 2013.

Global Issues in Design and Visuality (undergraduate). Parsons the New School for Design. Instructor of record, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.

Introduction to Social Psychology (undergraduate). University of Havana, School of Journalism. Lecturer, Spring 2002.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2015 Organizer of the approved panels Cuba en la era soviética y la condición post-soviética (I) and (II), Latin American Studies Association 2015 Annual Meeting. San Juan, May 27-30.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2012-present Author and founder of Cuba Material (<http://cubamaterial.com>), online archive of Cuban material culture.

2010-2011 Co-organizer of Scapes & Grapes, a student-led work-in-progress workshop. Department of Sociology, New School for Social Research.

AFFILIATION

American Sociological Association, Latin American Studies Association

MEDIA COVERAGE AND IMPACT

2014 “Cubans finding comfort, nostalgia in Russian products.” *Miami Herald*, November 14. (<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/hialeah/article3936801.html>)

2014 “Cuba tendría archivos similares a los de la Stassi alemana.” *El Nuevo Herald*. October 26. (<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/mundo/america-latina/cuba-es/article3390649.html>)

2014 Alfonso, Jairo. 212. Watercolor pencil on paper featuring objects of Cuba Material collection, exhibited at the Interamerican Development Bank Cultural Center Gallery as part of the collective show Economies of the Look and Creativity in Contemporary Art from the Caribbean. June 6 to August 29, New York.

2013 Rubio, Raúl. *La Habana: Cartografías culturales*. Valencia, España: Aduana Vieja. Pp. 214-215 discuss Cuba Material project.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (Higher Diploma in French Modern Studies, French Alliance), Portuguese (basic), Italian (basic).