

Insulating Ideology: The Enclave Effect On South Florida's Cuban-Americans

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Scholars have noted the enclave's capacity to propel Cubans ahead of other Hispanics with respect to economic and political power, there have been no studies of the effect of the enclave as a geographic space on the distinctive political ideology of South Florida's Cubans. This presentation explores how the "enclave effect" serves as an incubator and regenerator of the Cuban Exile Ideology. The sustainability of anti-Castro ideology, we argue, is greatly enhanced by the institutional matrix provided by the social space known as the enclave in South Florida. To test for this, we examine the proportion of an immigrant's time outside of Cuba that has been spent in the enclave. We hypothesize that if more than one half of the time outside of Cuba has been in the South Florida enclave, the odds of supporting exile ideology will be greater. We also anticipate that the time of departure from the island will have an impact on the power of the enclave to shape ideological profiles. To test the hypotheses, we use the FIU Cuba Poll conducted in March, 2014, consisting of a random sample of 1000 Cubans living in Miami-Dade County.

Tolerant, Fit, Sustainable: The entrepreneurial reimagining paradise for the Miami of the 21st century

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This paper discusses various genres of urban entrepreneurialism currently at play in metropolitan Miami. The paper argues that while urban economic development plans remain largely anchored in models of real-estate growth, attraction of tourism, production of leisure and construction of a tropical paradise imaginary, the policy discourse advances a diversified set of goals with the purported objectives of socio-cultural inclusion and tolerance for sexual diversity; urban health and promotion of active lifestyles; and overall environmental sustainability of the city in the threatening context of global climate change and expected sea-level rise. These arguments will be developed with three case studies that take stock of homo-entrepreneurialism; fit-city-entrepreneurialism; and eco-entrepreneurialism respectively. Firstly, the pro-equality turn and incorporation of LGBT interests in the policy-making of Miami Beach is interpreted as a case of homo-entrepreneurialism. Secondly, the "Bike 305" and provision of bicycling infrastructure throughout the country are critiqued using the analytical lens of fit-city-entrepreneurialism. Finally, the prevailing bias of environmental policies towards global mitigation and disregard for local mitigation is explained as a case of urban eco-entrepreneurialism. The paper ends with a discussion on how social mobilization may question the logics and designs of urban entrepreneurialism in a changing Miami and beyond.

Immigrant Miami: Mediated Place-making and the Search for Ontological Security

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Immigrants in Miami experience forms of inclusion and exclusion that are shaped by the metropolitan area's configuration as a regionally embedded global city with a Latino/a majority. This paper will explain how the choice of Miami as destination is part of a larger place-making strategy that seeks to maintain immigrants' ontological security as they engage in emotions work to extend the comfort of the natal home across physical space and time to the immigrant destination.

Traumatic Tales: Exiles and Place-making in Miami

Presenter: Patricia Price, Florida International University (pricep@fiu.edu)

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The condition of exile has been extensively treated in literature; indeed there exists a genre of 'exile literature.' Social psychologists and psychoanalysis have examined the effects of trauma on the individual and human psyche, as well as exploring strategies for healing. Yet social scientists have only begun to study exile, trauma, memory, and healing. This presentation examines Cuban exiles in Miami from the perspective of cultural geography. Specifically, I advance the notion that landscapes – both the literal cityscapes of Miami but also the ideological and nostalgic connections of those landscapes to other places both historical and fictive – constitute a strategic narrative engagement with trauma. Place and narrative intertwine in generative ways to achieve healing by establish creative linkages to alternate realities as well as to construct real places to recover, dwell, and move forward.