

Entangled Revolutions: Cuban Internationalism and the Nicaraguan Revolution, 1979-1990

Abstract

This talk will examine Cuban-Nicaraguan revolutionary collaboration in the 1980s through the lens of Cuban internationalism. It will focus on two examples, each of which illustrate how internationalism was both foreign and domestic policy for the Cuban Revolutionary government. First, it will follow Cuban teachers who went to Nicaragua to participate in the Sandinista's Literacy Crusade. Second, it will consider Nicaraguan secondary school students who travelled to the Isla de la Juventud, an island off Cuba's southern coast, to study under the Cuban system. In doing so, this talk uncovers transnational influences of the Cuban Revolution through people leaders sent abroad and arranged to live under the revolution. It also investigates what revolution meant to everyday people, and thus reveals how Cuban influence in the Cold War was experienced by different actors. Ultimately, I will argue for an approach to cold war history in the Caribbean that crosses borders but attends to how connections and exchanges were made up of people—and often normal, everyday people.

Bio:

Dr Emily Snyder is the Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow in American History at Cambridge University. She is currently working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled "Caribbean (Counter)Revolutionaries: Internationalism and Anticommunism in Cuba, Nicaragua, and the United States, 1979-1990." She earned her PhD from Yale University in 2023, and her work can be found in *The Americas*, *Radical History Review*, and *Cuban Studies*.