Intimations of Mortality: The Cemetery in Post-Soviet Cuban Film and Fiction

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Wed. Sept. 9th
12-1:30pm
IMU Walnut Room

Vicky Unruh is Professor Emerita of Latin American Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Kansas. Her scholarship focuses on 20th and 21st Century Latin American literary and intellectual culture as manifested primarily in narrative, theatre, film, and artistic movements. She is the author of Latin American Vanguards: The Art of Contentious Encounters; Performing Women and Modern Literary Culture in Latin America; and numerous articles in journal and books. She is the co-editor of Telling Ruins in Latin America and the coordinator a special issue of PMLA on Work (October 2012). She is currently completing a book on post-Soviet Cuba.

The Necrópolis Cristobal Colón in Havana, one of the largest cemeteries in the Western Hemisphere, is a popular tourist stop for visitors to contemporary Cuba. This talk explores Post-Soviet Cuban fiction and film representations of the cemetery as a cultural “vortex of behavior,” or a “practiced place,” for unpacking, critiquing, or recasting residual, if threadbare revolutionary ideals.