FAR Bio-Sketch 2021

Gema Guevara is an Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Literary Studies at the University of Utah. Her primary area of research is nineteenth century Cuban Studies. Her current research focuses on the intersection of racial and gender formation, slavery, Chinese indentured servitude, and accelerating capitalist modes of production in the decades preceding national independence. This involves unpacking the layered gendered and racialized discourses that promoted and secured the primacy of mestizaje as a means of defending whiteness against blackness. Her publications include articles on nineteenth Cuban nationalism, racial and
gender formation, Afro-Cuban music, and indigeneity. She is currently completing a book manuscript, *The Sound and Silence of Race:* *Contesting Cuba’s Racial Project, 1830s -1920s* in which she examines how the afterlife of slavery and colonialism shaped the rising urban black middle class, and especially women of color, in Havana and the US diaspora.

In addition to 19th Century Colonial Latin America, her teaching areas include early Circum-Caribbean hybrid texts, contemporary popular culture, and diasporic and immigrant narratives, and Afro-Caribbean music.