UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN
ANNOUNCEMENT

Florida International University
University Graduate School

Master’s Thesis Defense

Abstract

Dolores’ Last Will and Testament

by

Victoria Calderin

DOLORES LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT is a novel that aims to analyze the intersectionality of points of view among generations of Cuban immigrants in Miami through the lens of fiction. In it, Carmen Velez, a Cuban American Construction Manager, faces a divorce and financial ruin which force her to return to the life she fled from in Miami. After her mother, Dolores, dies, Carmen must execute her estate. Following a dangerous whirlwind trip to Cuba, meeting her estranged father, and encountering the shadows of her mother’s former life as a revolutionary, Carmen comes to more deeply understand her family, and by extension, herself. Despite her loses, she gains a new life and the return of her father.

The novel is influenced by Jenine Capo Crucete’s How to Leave Hialeah and Amy Tan’s The Joy Luck Club. Like its models, the story focuses on its main character’s struggle with loyalty to family versus loyalty to oneself.

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Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: BBC, AC1-317

Department: Creative Writing
Major Professor: Lester Standiford