Ever Faithful: “Race and Loyalty in Nineteenth-Century Cuba”

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Abstract:
Ever Faithful: Race and Loyalty in Nineteenth-Century Cuba,” the book manuscript I am completing based on my doctoral dissertation, questions the neat divide between colonial and national racial ideology and, by extension, the varied presence and absence of race in the Cuban public sphere. The project examines why many African-descended Cubans in the nineteenth century supported Spanish colonial rule and expressed that support in a nascent public sphere in terms of loyalty. It chronicles a group of individuals caught between competing racial identities, colonial identity as subjects of the Spanish crown, and apparently race-blind national identity.