Jacqueline Loss will lead a roundtable discussion dealing with expressions of the aftermath of the Cuban-Soviet “friendship,” through the lens of literature, visual arts, and music of the 21st century. Special emphasis will be placed on the way contemporary Cuban artists conceptualize Cuba’s positioning within the new global order vis-à-vis one of the Cold War’s most instrumental measures of progress: exploration in outer space. To the extent that Cuba could be formerly envisioned as a remote satellite, what do punk rock, irreverent fiction, and conceptual art have to say about Cuba’s orbit among heroic Soviet cosmonauts of the past? And to what extent can we count on such sources to help reevaluate and reposition Cuba in the present?

Jacqueline Loss is Professor of Latin American and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Connecticut. Her publications include Dreaming in Russian: The Cuban Soviet Imaginary (University of Texas Press, 2013), Cosmopolitanisms and Latin America: Against the Destiny of Place (Palgrave, 2005) and the co-edited volumes Caviar with Rum: Cuba-USSR and the Post-Soviet Experience (Palgrave, 2012, ed. with Jose Manuel Prieto) and New Short Fiction from Cuba (Northwestern University Press, 2007, ed. with Esther Whitfield). She has published numerous articles and translated Cuban authors, including Armando Suárez Cobián, Ernesto René Rodríguez, Jorge Miralles, Anna Lidia Vega Serova, Antonio Álvarez Gil, and Víctor Fowler Calzada. Currently she is pursuing a number of collaborative projects, including a photo essay and documentary with the Cuban photographer Juan Carlos Alom that deals with taste and Cuba.

The Crossing Disciplines colloquia promote the exchange of ideas across disciplines, fomenting our Ph.D. program’s philosophy that topics in the arts, humanities and social sciences are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies.

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