Abstract
This article reviews a wide-ranging bibliography of scholarly studies from both sides of the ideological divide concerning academic and official representations of the Prerevolutionary period in Cuba. The research points to a variety of factors which have influenced scholarly studies in the past: Avoidance of the period altogether, the absence of reliable biographies of the principal pre-revolutionary figures of the 1930-1959 period, restricted access to archives, promotion of official interpretations, amongst others. This study also points to the ground-breaking work of leading specialists who seek to bridge the ideological chasm between US and Cuban versions of their recent history. The article centres on the figure of Fulgencio Batista and aims to use his career as a window to the period, a means by which to suggest a variety of issues that need to be reexamined and challenged. A central point of this analysis will be the need to study the leading political figures within their historical context, and to being aware of different and contrasting stages in their complex political careers, and to the variety of implications that result.

Keywords
Fulgencio Batista, Prerevolutionary period (Republican); Cuban Revolution; US-Cuba relationship; bibliography of scholarly studies.