



Center for Latin American, Caribbean and
Latino Studies

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Program

***Reconfigurations of Racism and
New Scenarios of Power After 2001***

*Reconfiguraciones de Racismo y
Nuevos Escenarios de Poder Después de 2001*

*Reconfigurações de Racismo e
Novos Cenários de Poder Após 2001*

December 8-9, 2008
Campus Center Reading Room

Sponsors: Afro-American Studies (UMass); Center for Africana Studies (UPenn); Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies (UMass); Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Politics (UCLA); Graduate School (UMass); Horwitz Endowment and the Inter American Foundation.

Co-Sponsors: Afro-Luso-Brazilian Seminar (Five College); Anthropology (UMass); Black Studies (Amherst College); Center for Crossroads in the Study of the Americas (Five College); Center for Public Policy and Administration (UMass); History (UMass); Latin American Studies (Mt. Holyoke College); Latin American Studies (Smith College); Latin@ and Latin American Studies (Hampshire College); Lecture Fund (Five College); Political Science (UMass); Social Thought and Political Economy (UMass); Sociology (UMass) and Women's Studies (UMass).

Organizers: Black Cultures and Racial Politics in the Americas, and the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, UMass Amherst.

Monday, December 8

Opening Panel, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon Campus Center Reading Room

The Panorama of Racism and Racial Politics in the Americas Today

Main Themes:

An overview of Black social movements in the Americas focusing on the changes in Afro-Latina/o movements through the Durban process and its aftermath.

An evaluation of policies for racial justice and equality in Latin America emphasizing state ethnic-racial policies and the programs and practices of transnational actors.

An overall analysis of the reconfigurations of racism as well as of the structural constraints and historical possibilities of enacting policies for racial equality in the context of neoliberal globalization and its current crisis and of the current racist backlash (across political divides) against racial politics.

Moderator: Sonia E. Alvarez, UMass Amherst

Speakers: *Humberto Brown, Alianza Estratégica Afrodescendiente*
Matilde Ribeiro, Former Minister of Racial Equality, Brazil
Sueli Carneiro, Geledés Instituto da Mulher Negra

Discussants: Edward Telles, Princeton University
Agustín Laó-Montes, UMass Amherst
Seth Rascusen, Anna Maria College

Lunch Break, 12:00 noon-1:30 pm

Monday, December 8

Plenary I, 1:30-3:30 pm

Racial Politics: The State of the Movements and the Movement for Racial Justice

Key Questions: How to describe and analyze the current condition of Black movements in Latin America? What are the main tendencies in racial politics within movements of Afro-descendants in Latin America? What has been the role of Black social movements in designing, proposing, and enacting policies for racial justice, democracy, and equality in the countries and the region? How to compare and relate Black movements in Latin America and the United States? What has been the significance of the Durban process (the road to Durban, the conference itself and the program traced in it) for Black movements in the Americas?

Chair: Roberto Márquez, Mount Holyoke College

Speakers: Nirva Camacho, Red de Organizaciones Afro-Venezolanas
Joseph Jordan, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Sergia Galván, Alianza Estratégica Afrodescendiente
Maria Inês Barbosa, UNIFEM, Brazil

Discussants: Amilcar Shabbaz, UMass Amherst
Aurora Vergara Figueroa, UMass Amherst

Plenary II, 4:00-6:00 pm

Racial Policies: Assessing State and Transnational Programs and Practices

Key Questions: What are the main institutional changes and policy prescriptions developed in Latin America on the basis of the rise of Black social movements in the region? What are the most important state initiatives in different countries of the region that came out of the Durban program against racism? What have been the most important achievements of these policies? What are the principal impediments for elaborating and enacting successful policies for racial justice and equality in Latin America? How do racial policies in different countries of Latin America compare to the history of the racial state in the U.S.? What are the possibilities but also the limits of the Durban agenda?

Chair: Karen Y. Morrison, UMass Amherst

Speakers: J. Michael Turner, Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative,
Hunter College
Romero Rodriguez, Mundo Afro, Uruguay
Libia Grueso, Observatorio de Discriminación Racial, Universidad
de los Andes, Proceso de Comunidades Negras

Discussants: José Celso Castro Alves, Amherst College
Tianna Paschel, University of California at Berkeley

Public Reception, 6:00-7:30 pm, Campus Center Reading Room

Tuesday, December 9

**Plenary III, 10:00 am-12:00 noon
Campus Center Reading Room**

Racist Regimes and Racial Politics in the Rise and Fall of Neoliberalism

Key Questions: What are the relationships between neoliberal globalization and structural and institutional racism? How have racial inequalities developed in the context of Neoliberalism? What are the main racial ideologies and racist discourses in the current moment of globalization? What are the neoconservative and neoliberal discourses (some declared as been “from the left”) that constitute a racist backlash against politics for racial justice? To what extent the racial politics of the Black movements and the racial policies of the nation-states and transnational actors are challenging and transforming racial inequalities and racist conditions? Is the now declared crisis of global Neoliberalism opening opportunities for the rise of Black social movements in the Americas and for developing initiatives for racial justice? How to explain and to answer the attack across the political spectrum (from right to left) against policies for racial equity such as affirmative action?

Chair: John Bracey, UMass Amherst

Speakers: Rosita Romero, Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer Dominicana, NYC
Claudia Mosquera, Universidad Nacional de Colombia-Bogota
Jhon Antón Sánchez, Catedrático FLACSO, Corporación de
Desarrollo Afroecuatoriano, Ecuador
Tukufu Zuberi, University of Pennsylvania

Discussants: Dorothy Mosby, Mount Holyoke College
Flávia Santos de Araújo, UMass Amherst