

is a predominately black community. He was a member of the preparatory committee for the First Meeting of Black Communities of the coastal region of Guerrero and Oaxaca, Mexico, held in March 1997 (Encuentro de Pueblos Negros). In conjunction with other regional residents, Padre Glyn has helped open a library and a secondary school. He is also a founding member of the organization México Negro AC.

**Emilio Kourí** is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Katz Center for Mexican Studies at the University of Chicago.

**Laura Lewis** has a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. Her first book *Hall of Mirrors: Power, Witchcraft and Caste in Colonial Mexico* won the Wheeler-Voegelin Award from the American Society of Ethnohistory. Since 1997 she has been conducting fieldwork on the Costa Chica of Guerrero and in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She has received numerous awards for this research -- including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her work has been published widely in academic journals and will result in a second book.

**Martha Menchaca** is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research interests are in the field of historical and legal anthropology. She is the author of *The Mexican Outsiders: A Community History of Marginalization and Discrimination in California* (University of Texas Press, 1995), which won two coveted awards (CHOICE "Outstanding Academic Book," 1995, Gustavus Meyers Award, 1996). Dr. Menchaca's most recent book is *Recovering History, Constructing Race: The Indian, Black, and White Roots of Mexican Americans* (University of Texas Press, 2001), (which also won an award CHOICE "Outstanding Academic Book," 2002) She is also the co-editor of "Barrio Ballots" (Westview Press, 1994) which deals with electoral politics, and the author of 14 articles and book chapters examining schooling, immigration, and race relations.

**Javier Villa-Flores** is an assistant professor in the Department of History and the Latin American and Latino Studies program at UIC. He holds a PhD from the University of California, San Diego (2001). Villa-Flores is the author of several articles, book chapters, and two books: *Carlo Ginzburg, el historiador como teórico* (*Carlo Ginzburg, the historian as theoretician*) (University of Guadalajara, 1995), and *Dangerous Speech: A Social History of Blasphemy in Colonial Mexico* (to be published this year by the University of Arizona Press). He is currently working on a book on the history of hypoc-

risy and truth-telling in colonial Mexico, and editing a book on the history of emotions in colonial Latin America.

**Ben Vinson III** is an associate professor of Latin American History at Penn State University. He has authored many articles on the black experience in Mexico, and is the author of *Bearing Arms for His Majesty: The Free-Colored Militia in Colonial Mexico* (Stanford Univ. Press, 2001), *Flight: The Story of Virgil Richardson, A Tuskegee Airman in Mexico* (Palgrave, 2004), and is the co author of *Afromexico* (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2004). He is currently working on a study of the Mexican caste system in colonial Mexico, a second edition of *African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2007), and is co-editing a book entitled *Black Mexico* (Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2007). This year, he is a residential fellow at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, NC.

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MEXICAN FINE ARTS  
CENTER MUSEUM

*Afro-Mexican Studies Symposium*



*Scholars Present the Latest Research on  
Afro-Mexican History & Culture*

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum

1852 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street



Co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago and Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago

## Symposium Schedule

9:00-10:00 Exhibition viewing

10:00- 10:15 Welcome & Introductions- Carlos Tortolero, MFACM & Tracye Matthews, CSRPC

10:15-12:15 **Panel I- The African Presence in Colonial Mexico**

Moderator: **Emilio Kourí**, University of Chicago

Speakers:

**Sagrario Cruz-Carretero**, University of Veracruz , Mexico

**Javier Villa-Flores**, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Ben Vinson, III**, Penn State University

12:15-12:30 Break

12:30-1:45 **Keynote Speaker/ Lunch**

Facilitator: **Maria-Rosario Jackson**, Urban Institute

Speaker:

**Glyn Jemmott Nelson**, Costa Chica, Mexico

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-4:00 **Panel II: Afro-Mexicans in Contemporary Mexico & U.S.**

Moderator: **Raúl Coronado**, University of Chicago

Speakers:

**Marco Polo Hernández Cuevas**, North Carolina Central Univ.

**Anita Gonzalez**, State University of New York at New Paltz

**Laura A. Lewis**, James Madison University

**Martha Menchaca**, University of Texas at Austin

4:00-4:30 Book signing

## Participant Bios

**Raúl Coronado** is an assistant professor of English at the University of Chicago. His teaching and research interests are in Latina/o literary and cultural history, from the colonial period to the 1940s. His current book project, tentatively titled *Competing American Modernities: Politics, Publishing, and the Making of a U.S. Latina/o Literary Culture* explores the intersections between print and literary culture, intellectual thought, and political philosophy.

**Sagrario Cruz-Carretero** is an anthropologist and historian who has studied cultural and historical aspects of African descendants in Mexico since 1987. She is co-curator of the exhibition "The African Presence in México: from Yanga to the Present" at The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, Chicago, 2006. Her work received the "Gonzalo Aguirre Beltrán" award in 1990. She currently teaches "Ethnic Studies" and "Traditional Medicine in Mexico" at Universidad Veracruzana. She's been a lecturer in Mexico, Spain, Cuba and the United States. Cruz-Carretero was invited by La Raza Organization, Washington DC (May 2005), The United Negro College Fund, Washington DC (August 2005) and Georgia State University (September 2005) to lecture about the African presence in Mexico. She has been a lecturer at the University of California (Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Berkeley) in Mexico and in USA during 2004 and 2005. She is currently working with the PBS of Veracruz producing documentaries about the Black presence in Mexico. [sagrariocruz\\_mx@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:sagrariocruz_mx@yahoo.com.mx)

**Anita Gonzalez** is a member of the Theater faculty at State University of New York – New Paltz where she teaches directing, movement, and theater history courses. Her research interests are in African American theater, Latin American and Caribbean theater, and popular culture. She has lectured in Europe, Latin America, and throughout the United States at universities, arts centers, community centers, and in the public schools. Gonzalez is also a teacher, director, and choreographer. Jennifer Dunning of the *New York Times* describes Ms. Gonzalez as "a vibrant, powerful stage presence." Her work has appeared on PBS national television and at Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Dance Theater Workshop, Tribeca Performing Arts Center, and other national and international venues. Dr. Gonzalez earned her Ph.D. in Theater/Performance Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1997). She has written book reviews and articles about performance for *The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *Dance Research Journal*, and *Women and Performance*. Her essay "Directing as Cultural

Exchange" appears in the anthology *Latinas On Stage* and her book *Jarocho's Soul: Cultural Identity and Afro-Mexican Dance* is available at Rowan and Littlefield Press. In Summer 2000 she participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities Maya World Institute in Guatemala, Honduras, and the Yucatan peninsula.

**Marco Polo Hernández Cuevas** holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada; and a Master of Arts and a BA in Spanish Language and Literature, from Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, USA. At present he is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies at North Carolina Central University, in Durham, North Carolina, USA. Dr. Hernández has published two books: *African Mexicans and the Discourse on Modern Nation* (2004); and *África en el Carnaval Mexicano* (Africa in Mexican carnival) (2005). He is currently working on his third book, *"África late en la mexicanidad"* (Africa throbs in Mexicanness). He has published various essays in refereed journals; and has made presentations at world-renowned forums. Summer 2005, he organized an international Afro-Hispanic congress in Veracruz, Mexico; and launched the Mexican Institute for African Studies. Part of his work is being used as text at United States universities, including Howard, the capstone of Historically Black Colleges; and by other educators in the United States to improve relations among Latinos and African Americans. His research was used to inform in part the exhibit "The African Presence in México," at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum in Chicago, Illinois.

**Maria-Rosario Jackson**, Urban Institute, Washington D.C. Dr. Maria-Rosario Jackson served as the project consultant for the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum's *African Presence in México* exhibition and educational and public programming. She is a senior research associate and director of the Urban Institute's Culture, Creativity and Communities Program. Dr. Jackson's research focuses on urban policy, urban poverty, community planning, the role of arts and culture in community building processes and the politics of race, ethnicity and gender in urban settings. Dr. Jackson earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California and a doctorate in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Glyn Jemmott Nelson** is a native of Trinidad and has worked in the Costa Chica region of Southwestern Mexico for more than 20 years. Padre Glyn is the Parish Priest at the Parish of St. John of the Cross, El Ciruelo, Pinotepa Nacional, Mexico, which