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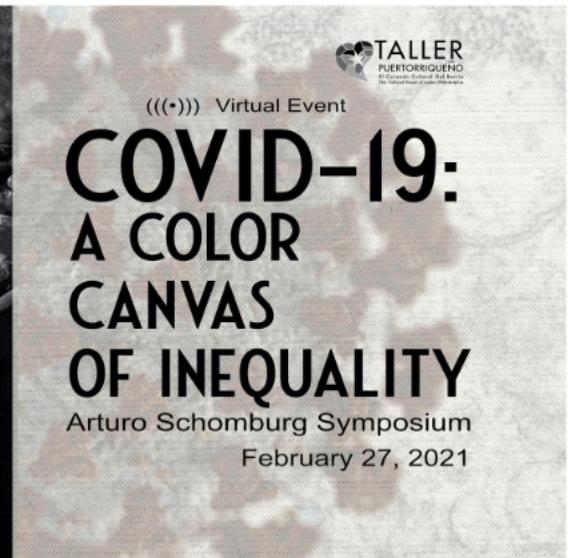
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25th Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium

Covid-19: A Color Canvas of Inequality



Saturday, February 27th
2021

9:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Taller Puertorriqueño
2600 N. 5th Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19133

Arturo A. Schomburg (1874-1938) was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico to María Josefa, a freeborn black midwife from St. Croix, and Carlos Federico Schomburg, a merchant of German heritage. Schomburg was educated at Puerto Rico's Instituto Popular, and at St. Thomas College, in the Danish ruled Virgin Islands, where he studied Negro Literature. One of his teachers claimed that blacks had no history, heroes or accomplishments. This claim inspired Schomburg's life long quest to find the truth and to document the accomplishments of Afro-Latinos. In 1911 Schomburg co-founded with John Edward Bruce the Negro Society for Historical Accomplishments. Today, Schomburg's collection of literature, artifacts, music, and art is housed in New York City at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a component of the New York's Public Library system.

Arturo A. Schomburg (1874-1938) nació en Santurce, Puerto Rico en el 1874. Sus padres fueron María Josefa, una comadrona de raza negra nacida libre en la isla de Santa Cruz, y Carlos Federico Schomburg, un comerciante de ascendencia alemana. Schomburg se educó en el Instituto Popular de San Juan, Puerto Rico, y en el Colegio danés de St. Thomas, Islas Vírgenes. Uno de sus maestros le comentó que los negros no tenían historia, ni héroes, ni logros. Este comentario inspiró a Schomburg a dedicar su vida a investigar y documentar los logros de los y las Afro-descendientes en el mundo. En el 1911 Schomburg co-funda, con John Edward Bruce, la Sociedad Negra para Logros Históricos. La colección que Schomburg logró reunir incluye un gran número de obras de literatura, artefactos, música y arte. Esta se encuentra actualmente localizada en la ciudad de Nueva York, en el Centro Schomburg para la Investigación de la Cultura Negra, el cual forma parte de las bibliotecas públicas de la ciudad de Nueva York.

Special Thanks to all the individuals who helped us put this event together

Committee

Edgardo Gonzalez

Evelyne Laurent-Perrault

Laura Sandez

María E. Mills Torres

Amber Henry

Carmen Febo San Miguel- Executive Director & CEO

Taller Staff

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[Manuel Berrios](#)

[Rafael Damast](#)

[Aida Devine](#)

[Daniel de Jesús](#)

[Katerina Lydon](#)

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NOTES

Program

- 9:15 AM Virtual symposium opens
- 9:30-9:40 AM **Welcome & Introductions/ Bienvenida & 25th Anniversary Commemorative Video**
- Morning session moderated by: **Alba Natalia Seda Morales, Ph. D.**
- 9:40–10:20 AM – **Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.**
- "COVID-19: The Visible and Invisible Health Impacts on Black and Afro-Latinx Communities."**
- 10:25–11:05 AM – **Dr. Edilza Sotero**
- "Black pedagogies: a look at Black communities actions to combat COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil"**
- 11:10–12:00 AM – **Amber Henry; Adriana Ospino Casiani; Lael Hardtman**
- "Resilience in the Face of Crisis"**
- 12:05–1:05 AM **Plenary Q & A**
- 1:05-1:15 PM **"In our own words"** Intro: **Alba Natalia Seda Morales, Ph. D.**
- 1:15–2:15 PM **Social Workers Lunchtime Roundtable Break out session: "Covid-19: A Color Canvas of Inequality: Implications for Social Workers**
- 2:20–2:40 PM **Moment of Remembrance led by Evelyne Laurent-Perrault**
- 2:40–4:30 PM **PANEL "...and speaking of inequality..."**
Moderator, Nicole Monteiro, Ph. D.
- Panelists:** **Sharon Gonzalez** **Sen. Ana Irma Rivera Lassén, Esq.**
- Jazmine Tooles, PT, DPT** **Silvia Amnesty, MD, MPH, MSEd**
- 4:30 PM **Closing Remarks**

Participants Bios

Morning Session Moderator:

Alba Natalia Seda Morales was born in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She graduated from the Sports Specialized School at the Olympic Training Center in 1997, with a specialty in Taekwondo. She has sixteen years of practicing and ten years of teaching kids and adults this martial art and Olympic Sport. She had received a Second Dan (degree) black belt, National Champion in the 55Kg category from 1995 to 2002 when she retired from competition. She was Assistant Coach of the Junior National Team 2003 to 2004. Dr. Seda Morales completed a BS in General Sciences from University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus in 2005 and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Temple University in 2010. She has been working at MossRehab and Temple University Hospital as a Physical Therapist, since 2010.

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A. is Associate Dean for Health Equity at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, as well as an associate professor in the school's population health and internal medicine departments. She also serves as Director of Health Equity at Ascension Seton. Mullen is an internist, epidemiologist, public health expert and the former principal deputy assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). While at HHS, she also served as the acting assistant secretary for health and acting director of the National Vaccine Program Office during the months spanning the transition from the Obama to the Trump administrations. Her career has spanned clinical, research, teaching and administrative roles focused on improving the health of all people, especially those who are underserved. She is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in building effective

nationally and internationally as a leader in building effective community-based chronic disease prevention programs and for her commitment to improving individual and population health by strengthening coordination between community, public health and health care systems.

Dr. Edilza Sotero is a sociologist from Brazil. Currently she is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Education at the Federal University of Bahia. She also holds a position as a researcher for the A Cor da Bahia Program - Research and Training Program on Race Relations, Culture and Black Identity in Bahia. She worked as a visiting scholar at the Africana Studies Department at Brown University (2015-2016) and at Princeton University (2014). She is doing research and has published papers on themes such as black women in Brazil, diaspora, racial identities, political organization, inequalities and public policies.

Amber Henry is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania where she is pursuing a joint Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology and Africana Studies. Her research is largely concerned with the anthropology of power, statecraft, narrative representations of the nation, collective memory and state-sponsored tourism, as well as the role of embodiment, performance, and sovereignty amongst African diasporic populations in Latin America. As an artist, Amber brings a creative sensitivity to her work through modes of ethnographic performance and ethnographic film, as well as collaborative research methodologies towards a more engaged anthropology.

Adriana Ospino Cassiani is a young student of Philosophy at University of Cartagena, Colombia. She is the organizer of a youth community organization, Benkos Ku Suto, working in the Afro communities of Cartagena and San Basilio de Palenque, holding empowerment, managerial and entrepreneurship workshops during the pandemic. She has supported Afro-Colombian women in the development of medicinal plant gardens in their homes and delivering meals home to home, a few examples of female resilience during the pandemic. Adriana is a member of the Black Community's Process Organization in Colombia (PCN) and a certificate student in African-American Studies at Harvard University.

Lael Hardtman is the Care Resource Coordinator, District for Georgia Department of Health. She has been working with small, rural community organizations to source Covid care packages that address food insecurity, joblessness and health issues amongst Black and Latino communities in Georgia. She envisions her work as going back to the roots of community-based models of care in the absence of adequate government attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Lael stresses the importance of thinking of these packages not as “aid” but care, and shares some of the ways these person-to-person modes of support have impacted individual lives and communities.

Elena Marie DiLapi, MSW is Taller Puertorriqueño’s Board Chair. She served as the Director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Women’s Center for over 20 years. During her tenure at Penn, she brought national and international attention to the complexities of issues facing women in higher education and the role of campus women’s centers in helping identify and address those issues. Recognized as a national and international leader for her work on violence against women, she was responsible for organizing a national conference on this topic that led to the creation of the Cleary Act. She served as adjunct professor in the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Work. Through her research, publications, and professional experience, she has made valuable contributions to students and faculty alike. Since retiring from Penn she has worked as an independent consultant offering a range of organizational and professional consultation services.

Veronica Medina, MSW, ACSW, LSW, CCM has recently retired from her role as Regional Director, Rapid Response and Outreach Team, (RROT) overseeing AmeriHealth Mercy Family of Companies (AMFC) Clinical Services Contact Centers for Pennsylvania, Delaware and the District of Columbia. She had been with AMFC since 2003. Her team provided care coordination for Medicaid and Medicare populations, reducing barriers to health care promoting preventive health care and use of Medical Home Model. She received a Bachelors in Theology from Cairn University (formerly Philadelphia College of Bible), a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania, and has completed postgraduate studies at the Wharton School. She is licensed as a Social Worker in Pennsylvania and is a Certified Case Manager. She has over 30 years of experience as an administrator, trainer and working in social policy issues affecting diverse communities including cultural, ethnic, language and LGBTQ people. Her professional background includes consulting with public and private ventures, higher education with emphasis on health equity and diversity.

Moment of Remembrance led by Evelyne Laurent Perrault

Currently an Assistant Professor at University of California in Santa Barbara, Evelyne is well known to this symposium as an Afro-Latina activist and scholar, born and raised in Venezuela from Haitian and Venezuelan parents. She has studied, lived, and traveled through Europe, Africa, Latin America, North America, and the Caribbean. She has a Licenciatura (Licentiate) Degree in Biology from the Central de Venezuela her PhD from the History Department, New York University's (NYU) African Diaspora program in Latin America and the Caribbean. She has presented at various universities and conferences in the United States and abroad, and has been the recipient of several fellowships. While on staff at Taller Puertorriqueño, Evelyne conceived the Annual Arturo Schomburg Symposium. Currently she is an Executive Board Member of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD).

Panel Presentation: ...and speaking of inequality...

Moderated by Nicole Monteiro, Ph. D.

Dr. Nicole Monteiro is a licensed psychologist, published researcher, author and assistant professor in the Master's Psychology Program at Chestnut Hill College. She earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from *Howard University*, with an emphasis on culture and mental health and a minor in neuropsychology. She has received extensive training in trauma and PTSD, global mental health and treatment with survivors of war and torture (*Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma*), long-term and brief psychotherapy (*Columbia University*) and group therapy (*Washington School of Psychiatry - National Group Psychotherapy Training Institute*).

Dr. Monteiro's work has spanned the globe - figuratively and literally. She has worked with children through adults providing counseling and psychotherapy, psychological assessment and clinical supervision. In this capacity, she has worked throughout the U.S., Grenada, Liberia, Bahrain and Botswana in settings as diverse as schools, hospitals, juvenile detention facilities, university counseling centers and community clinics. Her clinical/consulting practice, CHAD – Center for Healing and Development, PLLC – seeks to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of diverse populations in the U.S. and globally.

Panelists:

Sharon Gonzalez – is currently attending the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in New York pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Social Work. She works as a counselor and youth advocate at Child Center in New York City. Sharon is a Mexican immigrant from Nezahualcoyotl, Mexico. She migrated to Queens, New York at the age of four with her family and grew up in the NYC public school system as an undocumented youth. With that lived experience Sharon has now oriented her professional, personal and academic goals towards supporting other marginalized youth and families. Sharon has worked, at the onset and through the pandemic, with young people and their families to find resources, aid, and information. She aspires to continue supporting marginalized populations through accessible mental health services, education and advocacy.

Sen. Ana Irma Rivera Lassén, Esq. – is an Afro-Puerto Rican attorney who is a current Member of the Puerto Rican Senate, elected on November 3, 2020, and who previously served as the head of the Bar Association of Puerto Rico from 2012–2014. She was the first

black woman, and third female, to head the organization. She is a feminist, human rights and LGBTQ rights activist. She has received many awards and honors for her work in the area of women's rights and human rights, including the Capetillo-Roqué Medal from the Puerto Rican Senate, the Martin Luther King/ Arturo Alfonso Schomburg Prize, and the Nilita Vientós Gastón Medal. She is a practicing attorney and serves on the faculty of several universities in Puerto Rico; she currently serves on the Advisory Committee on Access to Justice of the Puerto Rican Judicial Branch. Rivera's legal career has focused on human rights law, including discrimination, gender violence, and socio-economic and cultural rights.

Jazmine Tooles, PT, DPT is a Physical Therapist at MossRehab Philadelphia which is a part of the Einstein Healthcare Network. Her interests include traumatic brain injury, vestibular dysfunction, stroke and orthopedics and she is a trained Functional Work Capacity Evaluator and Tai Chi Instructor. Dr. Tooles leads Einstein's Healthcare Network Cultural-Diversity Special Interest Group and is the host of Einstein Voices: A Staff Podcast on DEI topics. She currently chairs the American Physical Therapy Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey's diversity committee. Dr. Tooles is an Adjunct Professor at Temple University, guest lecturers for various Physical Therapy programs and presented at conferences locally as well as nationally. Dr. Tooles is also the creator and Director of Explore the Magic of Motion LLC, a signature summit and consultation service, providing educational programming on health and awareness of medical careers with the support of healthcare professionals and students invested in improving cultural competence and inspiring wellness in local, national and global communities.

Silvia Amnesty, MD, MPH, MSEd is a family physician and public health professional, on faculty at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (VP&S), Center for Family and Community Medicine, and Mailman School of Public Health, Department of Population and Family Health. She is the Associate Director of Latin America Programs at the Program for Education in Global and Population Health at VP&S. Dr. Amnesty's areas of interest are in health disparities, immigrant health, sexual and reproductive health, and key populations. Dr. Amnesty has been providing medical care to diverse populations for the past two decades in the Washington Heights and Harlem communities. Her recent work focuses on assessing risk behaviors, drug use, and sexually transmitted infections/HIV among key populations in the Dominican Republic (DR), where she has conducted a large multi-site research project.

Artist Isabel C. DeBeary provided the art shared today. On her work she states: "For so long, I haven't had time to paint until the quarantine arrived in March last year. This has been a great opportunity to work on some projects incorporating the social impact the pandemic has brought.

...I was born in Venezuela and living in United States for the last 27 years. I have a Major in Arts from the University of North Florida, and a Master in Education from Cabrini University. I worked as an art restorer in Bologna, Italy, at the Patrizia Cantelly's Restoration Studio. I have been a teacher in Philadelphia for 19 years, and I currently work at CAPA HS.

I started working last year on a series called "Beautiful Series". This was for me an opportunity to work with an unlikely situation I had never experienced before. The transformation of a carefree and open society changed, in a short period of time to isolation, fear, and distress. There has been so much news, information, misinformation, opinions, belief, and disbelief. I felt that I needed to start working right away. **Art is available for sale. Contact Lisa @ lmoser@tallerpr.org**