

## Afro-Latinos on the Move: Migration, Civil Rights and Politics

This year's Schomburg Symposium examines the migratory challenges of Afro-Latinos in the Americas and how societal differences and geographic locations affect politics and civil rights. Regardless of location, there are common experiences and distinctions in the adaptations and responses that Afro-Latinos have made to economic, racial and social pressures. This symposium takes into account the advancement, or lack there of, that has happened over time.

The Annual Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium explores different aspects of the complex relationship of the African diaspora to Latin American culture. With presentations by distinguished scholars, this event offers the opportunity to deepen knowledge and understanding, foster dialogue, and educate audiences and speakers alike.



### 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 patently biased 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 prejuiciado comentario inspiró a Schomburg a dedicar su vida a investigar y documentar los logros de personas Afro-descendientes en el mundo. En el 1911 Schomburg co-fundó, 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,

Taller Puertorriqueño  
2721 N. 5th Street  
Philadelphia PA 19133



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The 19th Annual Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium

## Afro-Latinos on the Move: Migration, Civil Rights and Politics

2557 N. 5th Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19133

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015  
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Discounts available for advance registration. See inside for details and program information.

Education Building  
& Roberto P. Hernández Theater  
2557 N. 5th Street

## Afro-Latinos on the Move: Migration, Civil Rights and Politics

### EVENTS SPEAKERS, PRESENTATIONS AND SCHEDULE:

**9:30-9:50 a.m. - Continental Breakfast** *Café y bizcochitos*

**9:50-10:00 a.m. - Welcome & Introductions**

**10:00-10:45 a.m. - Rituals, Violence & Black Bodies**

Dr. Herman L. Bennett, professor, Ph.D Program in History, City University of New York (CUNY), received a Ph. D. in Latin American History, Duke University, 1993. His academic fields include: Latin American History (emphasis on the colonial period), African Diaspora (emphasis on colonial ethnicity), among others. He is author of Colonial Blackness: A History of Afro-Mexico (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009).

**10:45-11:30 a.m. - Orishas on Trial: Afro-Caribbean Religions and the American Legal System**

Dr. Terry Rey received a Ph.D. in Religion, (with “Distinction”), Temple University, 1996. His areas of specialization include: African and African Diasporic Religions; Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Haiti, among others. He co-authored with Alex Stepick Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith: Haitian Religion in Miami, New York University Press, 2013.

**11:30-12:15 a.m. - In Times of Solidarity and Tragedy: Haitians Across the Americas**

Dr. Jeanette Charles, Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela (November 2013-present), Caracas, Venezuela, Doctoral Program in Strategic Development, received a Bachelor of Art degree (cum laude), Scripps College, Claremont, Ca, 2010. Areas of interest include: African diaspora, indigenous and labor history, popular forms of expression in, and political thought of the Americas

**12:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Plenary (Theater) Q & A**

**12:45-2:00 p.m.** Lunch (Provided by La Finca Café Caterers, Dance Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**2:00 - 2:45 p.m. - Are We Between or Within Black and White?**

**Racial Inequality and the Myths of Inclusion in Puerto Rico**

Dr. Zaire Dinzey Flores, Associate Professor of Sociology and Latino & Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and Research Scholar at Penn Institute of Urban Research, Philadelphia has a Ph. D. in Public Policy and Sociology, University of Michigan, 2005. Her book, Locked In, Locked Out: Gated Communities in a Puerto Rican City (University of Pennsylvania Press: 2013), was the winner of the 2014 Robert E. Park for best book in urban and community sociology.

**2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Q & A**

**3:00 - 4:45 p.m. - PANEL: Afro-Latinos on the Move in the United**

### Panelists:

**Moderator: Dr. Samuel Cruz** has a Ph. D. in Religion and Society, Drew University, Madison, NJ, 2002. He is Assistant Professor of Religion and Society, Union Theological Seminary, NYC. He has participated extensively in symposia, workshops and lectures on themes of religion and race, culture, human rights, immigration, and cultural and ethnic diversity.

**Fernando Treviño** is Deputy Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, in Philadelphia. Prior to this, Fernando worked for President Obama’s reelection campaign as State Director of Operation Vote: for the National Council of La Raza (NCLR); and for Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Fernando is currently recognized as National Political Partner by the Truman National Security Project.

**Angelo Falcón** is a political scientist best known for starting the Institute for Puerto Rican Policy in New York City in the early 1980s. It is now known as the National Institute for Latino Policy and Falcón serves as its current President. He was recently Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University School of Public and International Affairs. He obtained a Master’s of Science degree in political science, State University of New York, 1980. He is recipient of a 1983 Nelson A. Rockefeller Distinguished Alumni Award from the SUNY-Albany.

**Marla Soffer** is Of Counsel at Galfand Berger, LLP. Marla received her J.D.degree from Temple University Beasley School of Law and has been practicing for over 30 years. Her practice focuses in the areas of workers’ rights, safety, compensation and general personal injury and disability law. Fluent in Spanish, Marla serves as consulting attorney to the Consulate of Mexico in Philadelphia, is on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition, and is a member of the Coalition for Latin-American Migrants and Immigrants.

**Erika Almiron** is Executive Director of Juntos, a Latino immigrant community led human rights organization in Philadelphia dedicated to fighting for education, immigration, and worker’s rights. She has been working on social justice issues for almost two decades including youth organizing, women’s health, gentrification and poverty. Born in South Philadelphia to immigrant parents from Paraguay she grew up in Philadelphia and New York and after college went on to help start the Media Mobilizing Project while working at the American Friends Service Committee with the Mexico/US border program.

Deadline for advance registration /Fecha límite para registrarse por adelantado: 2/25/15 / For more information please contact Gabriela Sánchez at 215.423.6320 or [gsanchez@tallerpr.org](mailto:gsanchez@tallerpr.org)

### REGISTRATION FORM:

Please return to: Taller Puertorriqueño, Inc. Schomburg Symposium 2721 N. 5th Street Philadelphia, Pa 19133

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Deadline for Advanced Registrations: 2/25/15

Costo

- \$25.00 in advance/Per adelantado
- \$30.00 at the door/En la puerta

Members and students with I. D. receive 50% discount/50% de descuento para miembros y estudiantes con identificación.

Admission to Symposium/Precio entrada simposio

Non-Member (\$25 per person in advance-\$30 at event.)\*\*\*

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