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 hypocrisy 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 Afronmexico (Fondo de Cultura Economica, 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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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.

Afro-Mexican Studies Symposium

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

Saturday, April 1st, 2006
9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum
1852 W. 19th Street

1625 E. 55th St.
Chicago, IL 60615
(312) 924-4242
www.mexicanfinearts.org
Panel I: The African Presence in Colonial Mexico
Moderator: Emilio Kouri, 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

Panel II: Afro-Mexicans in Contemporary Mexico & U.S.
Moderator: Raúl Coronado, University of Chicago
Speakers:
Marco Polo Hernández Cuevas, North Carolina Central University
Anita Gonzalez, State University of New York at New Paltz
Laura A. Lewis, James Madison University
Martha Menchaca, University of Texas at Austin

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 Mexico: 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 D.C. (May 2003), The United Negro College Fund, Washington D.C. (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. sagrarioncruz_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.

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