

Symposium - Documenting Diasporas: Afro-Latin Americans and Afro-Latinos

On Friday, April 6, 2018, Dr. Michele Reid-Vazquez organized the symposium: “Documenting Diasporas: Afro-Latin Americans and Afro-Latinos.” Co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), the Department of Africana Studies, the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, and University Center for International Studies (UCIS), the event promoted scholarly research and public awareness about the African diaspora in Latin America and their descendants (Afro-Latinos) in the U.S.. Afro-Latin American populations total over 150 million (3 times the number of African Americans) and nearly one quarter of the 57 million Latinos in the U.S. identify as Afro-Latino.

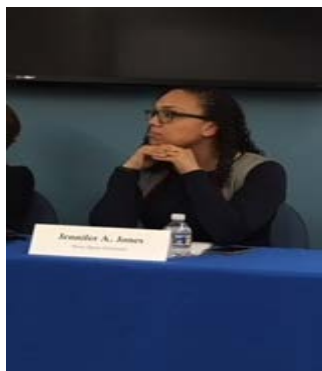
The symposium highlighted the range of sources – archival, literary, oral, digital, and visual – that researchers engage to analyze historical and contemporary diasporic experiences of Afro-Latin Americans and Afro-Latinos. Featured speakers for the panels and roundtable discussion included:

Dr. Sherwin Bryant (African American Studies, Northwestern University)
Dr. Kia Lilly Caldwell (African American Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill),
Dr. Solsiree Del Moral (American Studies, Amherst College)
Dr. Jennifer A. Jones (Sociology, Notre Dame University)
Dr. Reid Andrews (History, Pitt)
Dr. Martha Mantilla (Hillman Library, Pitt)

Dr. Ariel Armony, Director of UCIS; Dr. Scott Morgenstern, Director of CLAS, and Dr. Reid-Vazquez, Africana Studies, kicked off the symposium with thoughtful and engaging welcome addresses. Dr. Shawn Alfonso-Wells and Dr. Felix Germain, Africana Studies faculty, chaired and moderated the two panels. Dr. Reid-Vazquez moderated the roundtable in which the scholars shared their personal journeys of becoming experts on Afro-Latin Americans and Afro-Latinos in the U.S. They also encouraged additional research using colonial and modern sources, and curriculum development to enhance student and public knowledge.

In addition, participants were treated to a mini-exhibit on Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latino Studies research materials at Hillman Library and Special Collections prepared by Arif Jamal and Martha Mantilla, Ty'rica Jy'nae Terry, Benjamin Rubin and Ed Galloway.

Symposium Speakers



Jennifer A. Jones



Sherwin Bryant



Solsiree Del Moral



Kia Lilly Caldwell

Mini-Exhibit, the Latin American Lecture Room, Hillman Library



Bottom image - pictured (left to right): Arif Jamal, Kia Lilly Caldwell, Ed Galloway, Martha Mantilla, Michele Reid-Vazquez, Solsiree Del Moral, Benjamin Rubin.