

~SHORT BIOS OF PARTICIPANTS~

Humberto Brown is currently Professor of Community Development and Health at Downstate University is a former Panamanian Diplomat to the United Nations. Prof. Brown, an expert in Black Diaspora, is one of the founding members of the Black Radical Congress and in addition to being a founding member of the Global Afro Latino & Caribbean Initiative works in the capacity of International Outreach Director.

Prof. Anthony P. Browne has been teaching at the university level since 1997 and joined the department of Africana and Puerto-Rican/Latino Studies in 2001. Trained as a sociologist, he earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University. His research areas include: urban sociology, social movements and popular culture (particularly hip-hop). Most recently he has written on community organizations and neighborhood change; Africana sociology; the socio-cultural process of naming in hip-hop; and Black mobilization around civil service employment. A longtime resident of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn, he is completing a manuscript on how community organizations utilize social capital.

Dr. Margaret E. Crahan is the Dorothy Epstein Professor of Latin American History at Hunter College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She received her doctorate from Columbia University where she is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Latin American Studies. From 1982-1994 she was the Henry R. Luce Professor of Religion, Power and Political Process at Occidental College and from 1993-1994 the Marous Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. She has served on the Executive Councils of the Latin American Studies Association and the Pacific Coast Council of Latin American Studies, as well as on the Kellogg Institute of the University of Notre Dame, and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright Program). She currently is a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Edward's University, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and ForCHILDREN, Inc. She has also been a member of international missions to Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

Dr. Crahan has done research in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, and Uruguay on topics spanning the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries in Latin American. She has authored/coauthored/ edited/co-edited over seventy articles and books including *Africa and the Caribbean: Legacies of a Link*; *Human Rights and Basic Needs in the Americas*; *The City and the World: New York is Global Future*; *Religion, Culture and Society: The Case of Cuba*, and *The Wars on Terrorism and Iraq: Human Rights, Unilateralism, and US Foreign Policy*.

Ramona Hernández, Ph.D. is a native of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Ramona Hernández attended Lehman College until 1979, obtaining a BA with honors in Latin American History, with a minor in Puerto Rican Studies. She then pursued graduate work at New York University, earning a M.A. in 1982 in the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a M. Phil in 1995, and a Ph. D in 1997, both in the Department of Sociology at the Graduate School of The City University of New York. Currently, Dr. Hernández is at The City College, of the City University of New York where she holds the positions of Director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute and Associate Professor in the Sociology Department. Her research and publication interests include the mobility of workers from Latin America and the Caribbean, the socioeconomic conditions of Dominicans in the diaspora, particularly in the United States, and the restructuring of the world economy and its effects on the working and poor people.

Dr. Hernández was appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to the twelve-members New York City Panel of Education. She served in the Panel of Education from July 23rd 2003 to March 15th, 2004. Dr. Hernández was recently appointed as the Book Review Editor of the *Labor History* journal. She is also a

member of the Editorial Board of the Latino Studies Journal and Encyclopedia Latina: History, Culture, Society edited by Ilan Stavans. Vice Chair of the Dominican Studies Association, Dr. Hernández has lectured at numerous Universities, including Yale University, New York University, Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo, Cornell University, Columbia University, University of San German in Puerto Rico, Rutgers University, University of Puerto Rico, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, Puerto Rico, University of Massachusetts at Boston and at Amherst, Millersville University, Clark University, Kean University, University of Miami, Trinity College, Colby College, Michigan State University, and most campuses of the City University of New York.

Ed Morales is a journalist who has contributed to The Village Voice, where he was a staff writer for five years, Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and The Nation among others. He currently writes a weekly Latin music column for Newsday. He is the author of Living in Spanglish, a nonfiction account of Latino culture in the United States published by St. Martin's Press in 2002, and The Latin Beat: From Rumba to Rock (Da Capo Press, Fall 2003). As a journalist, Morales has investigated New York City electoral politics, police brutality, street gangs, grassroots activists, and the Latino arts and music scene. His short fiction has appeared in Iguana Dreams (HarperCollins) in 1992 and Boricuas (Ballantine) in 1994 and his poetry has been published in Aloud: Voices From the Nuyorican Poets Cafe (Henry Holt), and many small journals.

Iris Morales is a long time community activist, educator, filmmaker and lawyer. She is a graduate of the City College of New York and New York University Law School. For more than thirty years, her work has focused on a broad range of human rights concerns. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the Union Square Awards, an organization providing funding and other support to grassroots activists in New York City.

Pedro Pedraza is on the board of the Youth Action Program and The East Harlem Tutorial Program and the advisory board to the After School Corporation and New Visions. Researcher at the Centro since 1973 in what was originally the Language Policy Task Force. Conceptualized, organized and implemented with outside funding major interdisciplinary studies of the bilingual nature of the Puerto Rican community in 1970's through mid 1980's. Since then has focused research on education in the community and now in alternative school settings. Latest publication related to this work is The Spirit of Transformation: An Education Reform Movement In a New York City Latino/a Community in Sonia Nieto's book Puerto Rican Students in U.S. Schools.

Currently working with El Puente a CBO in Brooklyn in developing participatory research projects at their alternative high school the Academy for Peace and Justice supported by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. In addition to addressing important educational issues the work is also aimed at supporting the process of community development in general. Related to this is a project creating ties between community groups in the Caribbean and New York attempting the same kind of positive community development. In addition we have a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to form a national Latino/a education research agenda bringing together the different stakeholders from our community e.g. academics, teacher trainers, practitioners, community advocates, funders and governmental agency representatives.

Prof. Harry Rodríguez has been teaching at the college level since 1972 (City College, CUNY). He has also taught at Lehman College (1975-1980); at Hunter College (1980-1983); and at Rutgers University (1983-1988). Since 1988 he has been a professor in the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies of Hunter College. He was the co-organizer of the first historiography conference on Puerto Rico (1974) sponsored by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies and co-founder of the Institute for Puerto Rican Policy (a research and policy studies center) with Professor Angelo Falcón. Prof. Rodríguez also helped to organize the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. He received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to pursue

graduate studies in history. Also, he is a member of the Board of Director of the New York Civil Liberties Unions.

He has developed new courses for the Departments of Puerto Rican Studies at the colleges he has taught, such as: History of the Puerto Rican Labor Movement; Political Nationalism; Legal System and the Latinos in the United States; and Political Economy of the Caribbean. From the Fall of 1994 through the Fall of 1998, he served as Acting Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program at Hunter College. He was a member of the Chief Librarian Search Committee at Hunter College and served in the Academic Senate for six years. In the book, *The Puerto Rican Nation*, published by the University of Puerto Rico Press in 1994, he wrote a chapter about the trials against the Puerto Rican nationalist, Pedro Albizu Campos, conducted in 1937 and in 1951.

Dr. Carlos E. Russell is Professor Emeritus Brooklyn College. During his tenure at Brooklyn College he served as Chairman of the Department of Educational Services and Director of the SEEK program. Dr. Russell was also the Dean of the School of Contemporary Studies at Brooklyn College. Upon his retirement Dr. Russell served as Director of International and Urban Affairs at Medgar Evers College. Dr. Russell is the founder of Black Solidarity Day. In addition he has served as Associate Editor of the *Liberator Magazine* and the *New York Amsterdam News*. As a native of the Republic of Panama, Dr. Russell has served as that nations alternate delegate to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador. He was also Panama's Ambassador the Organization of American States.

Dr. Russell has been an activist in the struggle for civil and human rights. As such he worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the initial planning of he "Poor People's Campaign." He also had the privilege of interviewing for the "Liberator" magazine El Hajj Malik el Shabazz -- Malcolm X. Dr. Russell is also a poet and a playwright. He has written and produced 10 plays and authored 3 books of Pana-Caribbean poetry and a sundry of articles for many local newspapers and journals. Presently, he is the Executive Producer and Host of "Thinking it Through" a nightly radio talk show on WLIB-Am. He lives in Brooklyn.

Professor Joyce Toney was the Chairperson of the department from 1998 to 2002. Currently she is the director of the Women's Studies Program at Hunter College. Prof. Toney's research looks at the origins of the Caribbean "culture of migration," and identifies the historical role that Caribbean migrants have played in determining political and social issues in their home society. Another area of her research examines the controversial ways in which Caribbean migrants in New York City used their ethnicity to confront racism in the larger society.

Prof. Arlene Torres is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In January of 2004 she was appointed Director of the Latina and Latino Studies Program at UIUC. As a cultural anthropologist who focuses on the study of race and ethnicity, Torres has conducted research in the Anglophone and Hispanic Caribbean and in the U.S. Her most recent work focuses on the racialization of ethnic groups in museum settings. The work is titled, "Collecting Puerto Ricans" in Kevin Yelvington (ed.) *Afro-Atlantic Dialogues: Anthropology in the Diaspora*. Santa Fe, NM: SAR Press (2004). Other published works include *Blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Volumes I & II. Edited with Norman E. Whitten Jr. (eds.) Bloomington: Indiana University Press (1998). As a public intellectual, Torres serves as a member of the Advisory Board and consultant to a national project on race, "Understanding Race and Human Variation: A Public Education Program" supported American Anthropological Association, the Ford Foundation and National Science Foundation.

Prof. J. Michael Turner is Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program at Hunter College-City University of New York (CUNY) and Associate Professor of African History and Latin American History in Hunter's History Department. A Co-founder of the Global Afro

Latino and Caribbean Initiative (GALCI), GALCI has sought to collaborate with Afro Latino and Caribbean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) throughout the Western Hemisphere to provide advocacy services for better access to multi-lateral funding organizations for Afro Latinos and Caribbean groups, and better inclusion of these groups within their home societies, or for emigrant Afro Latino and Caribbean groups residing in the United States.

Turner spent five years working for the Ford Foundation in Brazil, where he was responsible for initiating the Foundation's work in Afro-Brazilian Affairs (1979-1985). He was the Loan Officer for Togo at the World Bank (1986-7), and served as a project consultant for United Support of Artists for Africa ("We Are The World") in Mali, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Angola, and Mozambique. In 1992, Turner was offered the position of Democracy/Governance Consultant for the U.S. Agency of International Development in Mozambique, managing the Democratic Initiatives Project that gave U.S. Government financial support for the 1994 democratic multiparty electoral process in Mozambique. Turner continues to serve as a Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mozambique. An elected member of the Council on Foreign Relations, his most recent publications have analyzed the emerging role of Afro Latinos within the international community, and the role of civil society and good governance practices in Mozambique. Turner studied African History and Latin American History at Yale University, the African Studies Program at Boston University, and Harvard University.

Dr. Marta Moreno Vega has conducted extensive research in Yoruba Belief systems in the African Diaspora and organized three international conferences uniting scholars and traditional leading experts on African Diaspora religions. Dr. Vega is co-director of GALCI (Global Initiative of Afro Latin and Caribbean Organizations) a program of Hunter College/Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. She is the director and co-producer of the documentary entitled *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*, partially funded by the Ford Foundation. Dr. Vega was acting director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program at Hunter College for the semester of Fall 2002. She is presently an Adjunct Professor teaching Afro-Caribbean Religions and Afro Latinos in New York City at Hunter College/CUNY. Dr. Vega was an Assistant Professor at Baruch College's Black and Hispanic Studies Department from 1996 ñ 2000. She is co-editor of *Voices From the Battlefield Achieving Cultural Equity* published by Africa World Press, author of *The Altar of My Soul ñ The Living Traditions of Santería* published by One World/ Ballantine Books/Random House, and the author a book to be published by Crown Publishing Group entitled *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*. Dr. Vega received her Doctorate from Temple University in May 1995. She is the founder and president of the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute and former director of El Museo del Barrio and creator of Amigos del Museo del Barrio Inc. Dr. Vega is one of the founders of the Association of Hispanic Arts and its first Director. She is also one of the founders of the Network of Centers of Color and the Roundtable of Center of Colors.

Basil Wilson, Ph.D. is the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. He completed a Ph.D. at the City University Graduate Center in Political Science in 1980. His dissertation topic was *Surplus Labor and Political Violence in Jamaica*. Provost Wilson began teaching at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1974 in the African American Studies Department. The courses that he taught reflected his research interest such as African American History, Caribbean Politics, Black Social and Intellectual thought, Comparative Politics and Globalization and Terrorism. Dr. Wilson was appointed by the CUNY Board of Trustees to the position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1990 and has served in that position to the present. During his fourteen years as the Provost, he has cultivated the culture of teaching and the culture of learning at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In addition to emphasizing the art of teaching, the Provost has promoted faculty research, particularly in criminal justice and related fields.