Contested Modernities
Indigenous and Afro-descendant Experiences in Latin America

Lozano Long 2009 Keynote Address
Afro-Indigenous Translations of Social Emancipation
Boaventura de Sousa Santos

Featured Speakers
Catherine Walsh Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Quito
Bettina Ng’weno University of California, Davis
Rosalva Aída Hernández Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, Mexico City
Michael Hanchard Johns Hopkins University
Arturo Escobar University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ginetta Candelario Smith College
Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj Mecanismo de Apoyo a los Pueblos Indígenas Oxlajuj Tz’ikin

Thursday–Saturday
February 26–28, 2009
Texas Union
University of Texas at Austin
This conference was made possible by the generous support of these cosponsoring units:
Departments of Anthropology, History, Government, Religious Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese;
Program in Comparative Literature;
John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies;
Humanities Institute;
Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice;
Office of Thematic Initiatives and Community Engagement;
and the College of Liberal Arts.

This scholarly gathering discusses the specific contours of disparate modern experiences in Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and the Andes, where ethnic markers led to fundamentally distinct modernizing processes from elsewhere on the continent.

Considerable progress has been made in scholarship over the past two decades to address the numerous conceptual failings that had left Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples invisible or marginalized in relation to dominant narratives and analytical frames. To an important degree, these contestations have been carried out by indigenous and Afro-descendant intellectuals themselves in a way that has served to highlight the closely intertwined relationship between scholarly trends and societal politics. Yet, an important facet of this scholarly transformation remains woefully incomplete, perhaps reflecting the difficulties of the corresponding political challenge. It is generally acknowledged that Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples face parallel histories of racism and oppression, and that their struggles for rights and redress follow similar patterns as well. But when it comes to empirical research and sustained analytical work, the most common pattern is to address the two separately, rather than viewing both through the same analytical lens. In the realm of literature and literary analysis a similar pattern holds. There surely are sound political and analytical reasons in particular cases. But the divide itself and the different emphases within each body of scholarship also betray some suspicious parallels to the racial ideologies to which both peoples have been subjected over the past 500 years.

This conference will be dedicated to probing this divide, by showcasing scholarship and political interventions that place indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in the same analytical lens. We seek to explore and problematize this divide, without assuming that it should be eliminated, or that it should stay in place. Rather, our guiding premise is that rigorous historical, humanistic, and social analysis of the underlying question will both energize scholarly debates and contribute to the bridge-building of commonality and difference, from which the struggles of both peoples stand to benefit.
### DAY ONE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26
**SANTA RITA ROOM, TEXAS UNION 3.502**

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<td>9:00–9:30 A.M.</td>
<td>Introductory Remarks</td>
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<td>9:45–11:00 A.M.</td>
<td>PANEL I</td>
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<td>Questions of Governance: Recognizing Indigenous and Afro Latin Americans</td>
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<td>11:00–11:15 P.M.</td>
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<td>11:15–12:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>Latin America in Transition(s): Alternative Modernizations or De-colonial Projects?</td>
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<td>12:30–2:00 P.M.</td>
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<td>2:00–3:15 P.M.</td>
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<td>Indigenous and Afro Struggles and the State: Interculturality, Decoloniality, and Collective Well-being in the Andes</td>
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<td>3:15–3:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>The Complex Convergence of the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Struggles</td>
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<td>5:00–6:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>Afro-Indigenous Translations of Social Emancipation</td>
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### DAY TWO: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
**SANTA RITA ROOM, TEXAS UNION 3.502**

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<td>PANEL V</td>
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<td>“We declare that we are Indians”: Dominican Sovereignty Claims and Racial Identity Discourses at the Nexus of Empires and Expansion in the Americas</td>
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Thursday, February 26
Santa Rita Room, Texas Union 3.502

9:00–9:30 a.m.
Introductory Remarks
Bryan Roberts  Director, LLILAS
Arturo Arias  Conference Co-organizer
Charles R. Hale  Conference Co-organizer

9:45–11:00 a.m.
Panel I
Speaker: Bettina Ng’weno  African American and African Studies Program, University of California, Davis
Questions of Governance: Recognizing Indigenous and Afro Latin Americans
Chair: Raúl Madrid  UT Dept. of Government
Discussant: Jossianna Arroyo-Martínez  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

11:00–11:15 a.m.
Coffee break

11:15–12:30 p.m.
Panel II
Speaker: Arturo Escobar  Dept. of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Latin America in Transition(s): Alternative Modernizations or De-colonial Projects?
Chair: Bjorn Sletto  UT School of Architecture
Discussant: Arturo Arias  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

12:30–2:00 p.m.
Lunch

Day Three: Saturday, February 28

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Panel IX  Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102
Topic: Human Rights, Recognition, and Redistribution
Panel X  Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128
Topic: Territoriality

10:45–11:00 a.m.
Coffee break

11:00–12:15 p.m.
Panel XI  Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102
Topic: Metaphysics, Memory, Ritual
Panel XII  Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128
Topic: Literary and Artistic Manifestations

12:15–2:00 p.m.
Lunch

12:15–2:00 p.m.
Panel XIII  Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102
Topic: Convergence/Divergence between Afro-descendant and Indigenous Struggles
Panel XIV  Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128
Topic: Transnational Mobilizations

3:30–4:45 p.m.
Panel XV  Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102
Topic: Alternative Modernizations
Panel XVI  Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128
Topic: Reconfiguring the State

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Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Experiences in Latin America

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2:00–3:15 P.M.  PANEL III
Speaker:  CATHARINE WALSH  Latin American Cultural Studies, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador
Indigenous and Afro Struggles and the State: Interculturality, Decoloniality, and Collective Well-being in the Andes
Chair:  OMONIYI AFOLABI  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese
Discussant:  CHARLES R. HALE  UT Dept. of Anthropology

3:15–3:30 P.M.  Coffee break

3:30–4:45 P.M.  PANEL IV
Speaker:  IRMA ALCIA VELÁSQUEZ NIMATUJ  Mecanismo de Apoyo a los Pueblos Indígenas Oxlajuj Tz’ikin
The Complex Convergence of the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Struggles
Chair:  NORA ENGLAND  UT Dept. of Linguistics
Discussant:  VIRGINIA GARRARD BURNETT  UT Dept. of History

4:45–5:00 P.M.  Coffee break

5:00–6:30 P.M.  LOZANO LONG KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Welcoming Remarks
BRYAN ROBERTS  Director, LLILAS
RICHARD FLORES  Senior Associate Dean, UT College of Liberal Arts

Keynote  Afro-Indigenous Translations of Social Emancipation
BOAVENTURA DE SOUSA SANTOS  Professor of Sociology, School of Economics, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Friday, February 27
Santa Rita Room, Texas Union 3.502

9:30–10:45 A.M.  PANEL V
Speaker:  GINETTA CANDELARIO  Sociology and Latin American and Latina/o Studies, Smith College
“We declare that we are Indians”: Dominican Sovereignty Claims and Racial Identity Discourses at the Nexus of Empires and Expansion in the Americas
Chair:  GERALD TORRES  UT School of Law
Discussant:  FRANK GURIDY  UT Dept. of History

10:45–11:00 A.M.  Coffee break

11:00–12:15 P.M.  PANEL VI
Speaker:  R. AÍDA HERNÁNDEZ  Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico
Indigeneity as a Field of Power: Possibilities and Limits of Indigenous Identities in Political Struggle
Chair:  CHRISTEN SMITH  UT Dept. of Anthropology
Discussant:  SHANNON SPEED  UT Dept. of Anthropology

12:15–2:00 P.M.  Lunch

2:00–3:15 P.M.  PANEL VII
Speaker:  MICHAEL HANCHARD  Dept. of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
Hybridity, Miscegenation, and Racial Valuation in the Americas
Chair:  EDMUND T. GORDON  UT Dept. of Anthropology and Office of Thematic Initiatives and Community
Discussant:  JULIET HOOKER  UT Dept. of Government

3:30–4:45 P.M.  PANEL VIII
Roundtable Discussion with Invited Speakers
Moderator:  KAREN ENGLE  UT Law School
Saturday, February 28

9:30–10:45 A.M.  PANEL IX  Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102
Topic:  Human Rights, Recognition, and Redistribution
Chair:  karen engle  UT Law School
Speakers:  sarah warren  Dept. of Sociology, University of Wisconsin–Madison
From Defining Membership to Claiming Autonomy: The Politics of Mapuche Identity Construction in Argentina
Laurie Kroshus Medina  Dept. of Anthropology, Michigan State University
Validating and Invalidating Claims to Indigeneity and Rights: The Effects of International Indigenous Rights Law on the Land Rights of Maya and Afro-descendant Groups in Belize
Maria Giuliana Zambrano  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese
Resignificando la justicia social: Experiencias en el Valle del Chota
Discussant:  Ariel Dulitzky  UT Law School

9:30–10:45 A.M.  PANEL X  Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128
Topic:  Territoriality
Chair:  Shannon Speed  UT Dept. of Anthropology
Speakers:  Sandro Jiménez-Ocampo  Program of Political Studies, FLACSO Ecuador
Contested Modernities: Indigenous and Afro-descendant Struggles in Latin America
Discussant:  Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

10:45–11:00 A.M.  Coffee break

11:00–12:15 P.M.  PANEL XI  Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102
Topic:  Metaphysics, Memory, Ritual
Chair:  Virginia Garrard Burnett  UT Dept. of History
Speakers:  Michelle Wibbelsman  St. Edward’s University
Emergent Communities: Ritual, Politics, and the Moral Society
J. P. Linstroth  Nova Southeastern University
Mayan Cognition, Memory, and Trauma
Discussant:  Pauline Strong  UT Dept. of Anthropology

11:00–12:15 P.M.  PANEL XII  Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128
Topic:  Literary and Artistic Manifestations
Chair:  Arturo Arias  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese
Speakers:  Emilio Del Valle Escalante  Dept. of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
El Movimiento Maya guatemalteco, interculturalidad y globalización: ¿Resistiendo o re-articulando una modernidad colonial?
Jerome Branch  Dept. of Hispanic Languages and Literature, University of Pittsburgh
The Maafa/Pachacuti Paradigm, the Decolonial, and “Our” America: Revisiting Underdevelopment as Verb
Discussant:  Sonia Roncador  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

12:15–2:00 P.M.  Lunch
2:00–3:15 P.M.  
**Panel XIII**  
Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102  

**Topic:** Convergence/Divergence between Afro-descendant and Indigenous Struggles  

**Chair:**  
CHARLES R. HALE  
UT Dept. of Anthropology  

**Speakers:**  
EDIZON LEÓN  
Fondo Documental Afro-Andino, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador  
KEISHA-KHAN PERRY  
Dept. of Africana Studies, Brown University  

*Raza y movimientos sociales: Formaciones discursivas y prácticas políticas Afro-Andinas*  

**MAYLEI BLACKWELL**  
Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCLA  

*At the Intersections of Ethnicity/Race and Gender: Strategies from Black and Indigenous Women’s Organizing in Latin America*  

**Discussant:**  
KALEEMA AL-NUR  
UT Law School  

2:00–3:15 P.M.  
**Panel XIV**  
Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128  

**Topic:** Transnational Mobilizations  

**Chair:**  
FRANK GURidy  
UT Dept. of History  

**Speakers:**  
ERIN AMASON MONTERO  
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, University of New Mexico  
LIGHT CARRUYO  
Dept. of Sociology, Vassar College  
ERICA TOWNSEND-BELL  
Dept. of Political Science, University of Iowa  

*Afro-Indigeneity and Transnationality: Two Visual Productions on the Garífuna of Honduras*  

**Discussions:**  
JOHN MCKIERNAN-GONZÁLEZ  
UT Dept. of History  

3:30–4:45 P.M.  
**Panel XV**  
Eastwoods Room, Texas Union 2.102  

**Topic:** Alternative Modernizations  

**Chair:**  
JOSIANNIA ARROYO-MARTÍNEZ  
UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese  

**Speakers:**  
VIRGINIE LAURENT  
Dept. of Political Science, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia  
JUSTIN WOLFE  
Dept. of History, Tulane University  

*Identidades, tradición y modernidad ¿cuestionadas? Organizaciones indígenas y movilizaciones políticas en Colombia*  

**Discussant:**  
JAVIER AUYERO  
UT Dept. of Sociology  

3:30–4:45 P.M.  
**Panel XVI**  
Sinclair Suite, Texas Union 3.128  

**Topic:** Reconfiguring the State  

**Chair:**  
JULIET HOOKER  
UT Dept. of Government  

**Speakers:**  
KIA LILLY CALDWELL  
Dept. of African and Afro-American Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
OSVALDO JORDAN  
Dept. of Political Science, University of Florida  
MARIANA MORA  
Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico, and UT Dept. of Anthropology  

*Destabilizing Mestizaje and the (In)visibility of Blackness in Mexico: Reflections on Zapatista Political Identity Formation*  

**Discussant:**  
SETH GARFIELD  
UT Dept. of History  

3:15–3:30 P.M.  
Coffee break
Ginetta Candelario is Associate Professor in Sociology and Director of the Program in Latin American and Latina/o Studies at Smith College. Her research interests include Dominican communities and identity formations, race and ethnicity in the Americas, beauty culture, Latina/o communities and identity formations, museum studies, and Latin American and Latina feminisms. Her first book, Black behind the Ears: Dominican Identity from Museums to Beauty Shops, was published by Duke University Press in 2007 and received the Best Book Award from the North East Council of Latin American Studies in 2008. Her edited volume, Miradas desencadenantes: Los estudios de género en la República Dominicana al inicio del tercer milenio, a collection of recent gender and women’s studies research in the Dominican Republic, was published in April 2005. Her current research is on Dominican feminist thought and activism, 1880–1961, which she plans to develop into a book-length study.

Boaventura de Sousa Santos is a full professor at the University of Coimbra, School of Economics, Department of Sociology, in Portugal, and a Distinguished Scholar of the Institute for Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin Law School. He received an LL.M. and a S.J.D., from Yale Law School. Dos Santos has published prolifically on issues related to law and globalization, legal pluralism, multiculturalism, and human rights, and has taught at law schools and graduate programs in Brazil, England, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Angola, Mozambique, and Spain, in addition to his current Coimbra and Madison posts. His most recent book, coedited with Cesar Rodriguez-Garavito, is Law and Globalization from Below: Towards a Cosmopolitan Legality (Cambridge University Press 2005). He teaches a seminar at the Law School on globalization, law, and democracy during the fall semester.

Arturo Escobar, who was born and raised in Colombia, is Kenan Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests are related to political ecology, social movements, technoscience, the anthropology of development, Latin American development, and politics. His main publications include Encountering

**Michael Hanchard** earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University and has done fieldwork in Brazil, Britain, Cuba, Colombia, Ghana, Italy, and Jamaica. Hanchard was Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at Northwestern University and Director of Northwestern’s Institute for Diaspora Studies. Currently, he is a professor and researcher at Johns Hopkins University. His books include Orpheus and Power: Afro-Brazilian Social Movements in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo (recently listed in Brazil as one of the top ten books by foreign researchers on the topic of racism in Brazil) and Racial Politics in Contemporary Brazil (editor and contributor), a volume that examines racism, inequality, black social movements, and democracy in Brazil. Party/Politics: Topics in Black Political Thought (Oxford University Press 2009) is devoted to understanding black political phenomena in relation to recent literatures and debates in political science and several other disciplines about power, identity, and political mobilization.

**Rosalva Aída Hernández** earned a Ph.D. in anthropology at Stanford University in 1996. She is currently Professor and Senior Researcher at the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, Mexico City. She has worked extensively in the past on exploring ethnic identities in Chiapas as well as the human rights of Guatemalan refugees in Mexico. She is the author of Histories and Stories from Chiapas: Border Identities in Southern Mexico (UT Press 2001) published also in Spanish as La Otra frontera: Identidades múltiples en el Chiapas postcolonial (2001) and is coeditor of: Disident Women: Gender and Cultural Politics in Chiapas (UT Press 2006); El Estado y los indígenas en tiempos del PAN: Neoindigenismo, identidad y legalidad (Porruá 2004); Mayan Lives, Mayan Utopias: The Indigenous Peoples of Chiapas and the Zapatista Rebellion (Rowman & Littlefield 2003); and The Other Word: Women and Violence in Chiapas Before and After Acteal (IWGIA 2001).

**Bettina Ng’weno** is Associate Professor of African American and African Studies at the University of California, Davis. Trained in anthropology and originally from Kenya, she conducts research on states and property in Latin America and Africa. She most recently has published *Turf Wars: Territory and Citizenship in the Contemporary State* (Stanford University Press 2007), which analyzes the local, national, and international construction and transformation of the state by examining Afro-Colombian struggles over territory and citizenship, and “Can Ethnicity Replace Race? Afro-Colombians, Indigeneity and the Colombian Multicultural State” in the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* (2007), which looks at legal conceptualizations of indigeneity.

**Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj** is a K’iche’ Maya anthropologist and journalist. She was born in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and worked there as a journalist and editor of the newspaper *El Nuevo Quetzalteco* from 1986–1997. She received her master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin, and also enrolled in the Ph.D. program in anthropology. She is interested in the struggle for respect for the traditions and cultures of the indigenous people in Guatemala and conducted her dissertation field research in the Departments of San Marcos and Retalhuleu in Guatemala. As a recipient of the 2002 GSC Dissertation Fellowship, she currently conducts fieldwork for her project “Indigenous Identity, Gender Relations, and Agrarian Politics in Guatemala” in Quetzaltenango.

**Catherine Walsh** is Professor and Director of the doctoral program in Latin American Cultural Studies at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador, where she also directs the Fondo Documental Afro-Andino, a project dedicated to the recovery of knowledge in Afro-Ecuadorean communities, and the Inter-Cultural Workshop. Her research interests include decoloniality and interculturality, the geopolitics of knowledge and critical thought, Andean social movements (Afro and indigenous), and decolonial pedagogies. Among her most recent publications are *Interculturalidad, Estado, Sociedad: Luchas (de)coloniales de nuestra época* (2008); “Post Coloniality in Ecuador: The Indigenous Movement’s Practices and Politics of (Re)signification and Decolonization”; “Shifting the Geopolitics of Critical Knowledge: Decolonial Thought and Cultural Studies of ‘Others’” (in Cultural Studies, 2007); and “Afro-Andean Thought and Diasporic Ancestrality” (with E. León) in *Shifting the Geography of Reason: Gender, Science and Religion,* M. Banchetti and C. Headley, eds., Cambridge Scholars Press 2006).