

# HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER

*presents*

An International Conference

## BETWEEN THREE CONTINENTS: RETHINKING EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 2, 3 and 4, 2009



HOFSTRA  
UNIVERSITY®

# HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER

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# HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER

*presents*

## An International Conference

### BETWEEN THREE CONTINENTS: RETHINKING EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN

**Stuart Rabinowitz**

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#### Conference Co-Directors

**Benita Sampedro Vizcaya**

*Associate Professor of Romance Languages  
and Literatures  
Hofstra University*

**Baltasar Fra-Molinero**

*Associate Professor of Spanish  
Bates College*

#### Conference Coordinator

**Athelene A. Collins**

*Senior Associate Director  
Hofstra Cultural Center*

Equatorial Guinea, a former Spanish colony (1778-1968) and the only Spanish-speaking nation-state in Africa, recently marked the 40th anniversary of its independence. This conference, *Between Three Continents* – the fulcrum of an initiative designed to reshape the place of Africa in debates on the Spanish-speaking and Atlantic worlds – will address historical and cultural connections between Equatorial Guinea, Spain, and the Americas. It will bring together a large number of scholars, cultural figures, and historical protagonists in the life of Equatorial Guinea. The study of Portuguese and Spanish colonial interventions in Africa necessitates interdisciplinary approaches that encompass comparative colonial interventions, political and diplomatic history, constitutional law, economics, anthropology, literature, linguistics, film, music, photography, plastic arts, ecology and ecotourism, and the politics of oil. In conjunction with the conference, other academic institutions in the United States – including Bates College, The Catalan Center at New York University, Harvard University, Hunter College/CUNY, Instituto Cervantes New York, University of Missouri-Columbia, Queens College/CUNY, Saint Joseph's College, and Vanderbilt University – will host additional panels and events featuring a number of the Equatorial Guinean participants attending the conference, allowing broader dissemination of the project.

All events, unless otherwise noted, will take place at the Hofstra University campus, with the exception of the Round-table of Guinean Writers, which will take place at the Instituto Cervantes New York. Panel sessions and special events will be held at the Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater (on the main floor of the Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library) and in 246 East Library Wing (on the second floor of the Axinn library).

***This conference is a nonpartisan academic forum in which participation and attendance is open to all.  
Neither Hofstra University nor the conference organizers are responsible for any opinions,  
political or otherwise, expressed by the participants or by the attendees.***

### **Project Collaborators and Co-Sponsoring Institutions**

Juan Caamaño, Queens College/CUNY  
Carlos Contreras Cervantes and Eloísa Vaello Marco, Centro Cultural Español de Malabo  
María Ángeles Díaz and Almudena González Vigil, Centro Cultural Español de Bata  
Bradley Epps, Harvard University  
Baltasar Fra-Molinero, Bates College  
María Hernández Ojeda, Hunter College/CUNY  
Antoinette Hertel, Saint Joseph's College  
Eduardo Lago and Juan Blas Delgado, Instituto Cervantes New York  
William Luis, Vanderbilt University  
Mary Ann Newman, The Catalan Center at New York University  
Michael Ugarte, University of Missouri-Columbia

Express Travel (Florida)  
The Flemish Authorities  
Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Equatorial Guinea  
Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Equatorial Guinea  
Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain's Ministry of Culture and U.S. Universities  
Spanish Consulate in Boston  
Spanish Consulate in New York  
Spain's Chamber of Commerce in New York

### **Confirmed Special Guest Speakers From Equatorial Guinea**

Tutu Alicante  
Her Excellency Purificación Angüe Ondo  
Juan Tomás Ávila Laurel  
Gerardo Behori Sipi Botau  
Justo Bolekia Boleká  
Juan Manuel Davies Eiso  
Elvira Dyangani Ose  
Rafael Evita Enoy (*in memoriam*)  
Ramón Esono Ebalé  
Donato Ndongo Bidyogo  
Eugenio Nkogo Ondo  
María Nsue Angüe  
Baltasar Nsue Ndong  
His Excellency Agustín Nze Nfumu  
Adolfo Obiang Bikó  
Enrique Okenve  
Celestino Nvo Okenve Ndo  
Anacleto Oló Mibuy  
Wenceslao Mansogo Olo Obono  
Damaso Mitoha Ondo Ayekaba  
José Fernando Siale Djangany  
Miguel Angel Sikota Ndjoli  
Remei Sipi Mayo  
Francisca Tatchouop Belope  
Francisco Zamora Lobo

### **Official Release of the Following Documentary Films (with English subtitles)**

***Memoria negra*** by **Xavier Montanyá**  
Followed by Q & A with the director

***Subvaloradas, sin ser vistas. Voces literarias de Guinea Ecuatorial***  
by **Mischa G. Hendel**, University of Vienna  
Followed by Q & A with the director

***Cervantes en Africa*** by **Miguel Angel Sikota Ndjoli**  
Followed by Q & A with the director

***Bajo una misma bandera*** by co-directors **Cinta Jiménez Cárabe** and **Pablo Salvatierra**  
Followed by Q & A

**Hofstra University Bookstore Book Sale, Display and Book Signings**  
Display of titles related to Equatorial Guinea

**Display of Artwork Posters by Spanish/Equatorial Guinean artist Luis Royo del Pozo**  
Sponsored by the Hofstra University Museum

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

246 East Library Wing Lobby  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

**Hofstra University Bookstore Book Sale, Display and Book Signings**

Display of titles related to Equatorial Guinea  
246 East Library Wing Lobby  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

9:30-10:20 a.m.

**OFFICIAL CONFERENCE WELCOME**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

**Liora P. Schmelkin**, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies  
Hofstra University

**Her Excellency Purificación Angüe Ondo**

Embassy of Equatorial Guinea, Washington, D.C.

**David A. Powell**, Professor of French and Chair

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Hofstra University

**Benita Sampedro Vizcaya**, Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Hofstra University

*Conference Co-Director*

**Baltasar Fra-Molinero**, Associate Professor of Spanish, Bates College

*Conference Co-Director*

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **PANEL I-A:**

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Jeffery Strickland**, Department of History, Montclair State University

**Enrique Okenve**, University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica

*"Wa kobo abe, wa kobo politik': Three Decades of Social Paralysis and Political Immobility in Equatorial Guinea"*

**Ibrahim K. Sundiata**, Brandeis University

*"Black and/or Spanish? Bioko and the Caribbean in Historical Perspective"*

**Jeremy Rich**, Middle Tennessee State University

*"Nous, les équatois: Experiences of Equatorial Guinean Immigrants in Contemporary Gabon"*

**Gerhard Seibert**, CEA/ISCTE, Portugal

*"Equatorial Guinea's External Relations: São Tomé e Príncipe and the CPLP"*

10:30 a.m.-Noon **PANEL I-B:**

**EMPIRE'S INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL PROJECTS**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Komla Aggor**, Department of Spanish, Texas Christian University

**Contxita Botargues Martija**, Ceiba Ediciones, Spain

*"Una revision crítica de la revista misionera La Guinea Española, 1903-1969"*

**Cátia Miriam Costa**, Universidade de Évora, Portugal

*"J. Bravo Carbonel e José de Macedo: duas leituras coloniais dos trópicos"*

**Dorothy Odattey Wellington**, University of Guelph, Canada

*"Equatorial Guinea Is Different: literatura colonial de Guinea Espanola en el contexto del África Occidental"*

**Anacleto Oló Mibuy**, Anthropologist, Equatorial Guinea

*"La literatura guineana en español después de cuarenta años (retrospectiva y perspectiva)"*

12:15-1:45 p.m.

**LIGHT LUNCH** (Sponsored by Hofstra's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program)

246 East Library Wing, Axinn Library, South Campus

Introduction of Film Director:

**Mercedes Mazquiarán de Rodríguez**, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Hofstra University

Projection of the documentary film

**Memoria negra** (with English subtitles), directed by **Xavier Montanyá**

Followed by Q & A with the director



1:45-3:30 p.m. **PANEL II-A:  
UNDOING EMPIRE**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator and Respondent:

**William Luis**, Department of Spanish and Portuguese,  
Vanderbilt University

**Eduardo Subirats**, New York University  
"An Endlessly Postponed Critique of Western Colonialism"

**M'bare N'gom**, Morgan State University  
"European Colonial Geographies in/on Africa: Spain  
in the Gulf of Guinea"

**Tucker Sharon**, University of British Columbia, Canada  
"Geography Based Representation and a Lonely Traveler's  
Narcissistic Musings: How Knowledge Becomes Power in the  
Chronicles of Manuel Iradier"

**Susan Martín Márquez**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick  
"Documenting the Colony: Francoist and Oppositional Documentary  
Film Projects in Equatorial Guinea"

1:45-3:15 p.m. **PANEL II-B:  
THE UNHOMELY AT HOME AND ABROAD: EXILE,  
DISPLACEMENT, AND EMPIRE BUILDING**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Manuel Galofaro**, Department of Romance Languages  
and Literatures, Hofstra University

**Fernando García Gimeno**, Writer, Spain  
"La sociedad y la agricultura en Guinea Ecuatorial"

**Germán Santana Pérez**, Universidad de Las Palmas de  
Gran Canaria, Spain  
"Los canarios en Guinea Ecuatorial durante la dictadura franquista"

**Ángel García Galiano**, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain  
"La casa sin palabras: las palabras de la memoria"

3:30-3:45 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

3:45-5:30 p.m. **PANEL III-A:  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED  
PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Gregory M. Maney**, Department of Sociology, Hofstra University

Discussants:

**Marisé Castro**, Senior Researcher, Amnesty International

**Ken D. Hurwitz**, Senior Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative

**Lisa Misol**, Senior Researcher, Human Rights Watch

**Maria Koulouris**, Program Director, Natural Resources and  
Human Rights, Global Right

**His Excellency Agustín Nze Nfumu**  
Embassy of Equatorial Guinea, United Kingdom

**Tutu Alicante**, Lawyer, Founder of EGJustice  
Equatorial Guinea

Respondent:

**Peter Rosenblum**, Columbia Law School

3:45-5:30 p.m. **PANEL III-B:  
THE UNHOMELY AT HOME AND ABROAD: EXILE,  
DISPLACEMENT, AND NATION BUILDING**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Vicente Lledó Guillem**, Department of Romance Languages  
and Literatures, Hofstra University

**Landry Wilfrid Miampika**, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Spain  
"La pos-colonia en cuestión: entre ficción hispanoafriicana y  
contextos africanos"

**Dosinda García Alvite**, Denison University  
"Paisajes del exilio en la obra de Balboa Boneke: Tiempo, memoria y  
construcción de una identidad guineoecuatorial"

**Thenesoya Vidina Martín de la Nuez**, Universidad Complutense de  
Madrid, Spain  
"La memoria negra de los retornados. Guinea Ecuatorial en la  
narrativa española actual"

**Silvia Bermúdez**, University of California-Santa Barbara  
"Ser negro en el Madrid de los 80: de 'Un africano por la Gran Vía'  
de Radio Futura a 'Un prisionero de la Gran Vía' de  
Francisco Zamora Loboch"

5:30-7 p.m. **PANEL IV-A:  
THE POLITICS OF OFFSHORE (OIL/GAS) PRODUCTION IN  
WEST AFRICA: STATE POWER, SOVEREIGNTY, CIVIL LIBERTIES,  
AND THE GLOBAL CAPITAL**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator:  
**Gregory DeFreitas**, Department of Economics, Hofstra University

**Hannah Appel**, Stanford University  
*"Thinking Beyond the Resource Curse in Equatorial Guinea: The  
Offshore, State and Corporate Sovereignty, and the Contract"*

**Joseph Kraus**, University of Florida  
*"The Impacts of Corporate Social Responsibility on State Institutional  
Capacity and Governance in Equatorial Guinea"*

**Alicia Campos Serrano**, Universidad Autónoma, Madrid, Spain  
*"Continuity and Change in the Political Economy Around  
Equatorial Guinea"*

5:30-7 p.m. **PANEL IV-B:  
HAUNTED BY THE DICTATOR: THE SPECTER OF  
FRANCISCO MACÍAS NGUEMA (1968-1979)**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:  
**Miguel Angel Zapata**, Department of Romance Languages  
and Literatures, Hofstra University

**David Casavis**, The City University of New York  
*"Teasing Out Psychopathic Behaviors of African Leaders:  
Francisco Macías"*

**Max Liniger Goumaz**, Historian, Switzerland  
*"Palabras de un veterano. Ilusiones y desencantos de un experto  
de la UNESCO en Guinea Ecuatorial bajo la primera dictadura  
nguemista (1972-1974). Qué tal la Suiza Africana?"*

**María Nsue Angüe**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea  
*"Efectos colaterales del colonialismo en Guinea Ecuatorial"*

7-7:30 p.m. **TEA AND SNACKS**

7:30-9 p.m. **PANEL IV-A (continued)**

**Sara Nso**, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain  
*"The Oil Boom in Equatorial Guinea and Its Geopolitical Influence  
in the Gulf of Guinea: A New International Role for a State in  
Development"*

**Nicolas Donner**, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France  
*"Oil Borders: Territoriality, Interdependence, and Imaginary Around  
Equatoguinean Petroleum"*

**Francisca Tatchouop Belope**, Politician and Economist,  
Equatorial Guinea  
*"Equatorial Guinea: Leading the Way for Transparency  
in Extractive Industry"*



8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

246 East Library Wing Lobby  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

### Hofstra University Bookstore Book Sale, Display and Book Signings

Display of titles related to Equatorial Guinea  
246 East Library Wing Lobby  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

9:45-11:15 a.m. **PANEL V-A:**

#### FROM THE ZOO TO BIODIVERSITY

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Cheryl Mwaria**, Department of Anthropology, Hofstra University

**Filip van Dingenen**, Visual Artist, Belgium

*"Flota Nfumu: On the Ideology of Conservation and the Consumption of Nature"*

**Laureano Córce**s, Fairleigh Dickinson University

*"When Animals Speak ... Lessons From Copito de Nieve and Darwin's Turtle in Juan Mayorga's Works"*

**Gail W. Hearn**, Drexel University

*"Status of Biodiversity Conservation on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea"*

9:45-11:15 a.m. **PANEL V-B:**

#### GENDER MATTERS

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Pepa Anastasio**, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Hofstra University

**Cécile Stephanie Stehrenberger**, University of Zürich, Switzerland

*"Folklore, Nation and Gender in a Colonial Encounter: Los Coros y Danzas de la Sección Femenina de la Falange in Equatorial Guinea"*

**Selena Nobile**, Università della Calabria, Italy

*"La literatura femenina de la migración a España y a Italia. El caso de la escritora guineoecuatoriala Guillermina Mekuy y de la somalí Igiaba Scego"*

**Damaso Mitoha Ondo Ayekaba**, University of Washington-Seattle

*"The Politics of Gender Parity in Equatorial Guinea: Prospects for a More Sustainable Political and Social Civility in the 21st Century"*

Respondent:

**Remei Sipi Mayo**, Writer, Founder of the Ewaiso Ipola Association Equatorial Guinea

11:15-11:30 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. **PANEL VI-A:**

#### READJUSTING THE LITERARY CANON

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator and Respondent:

**Juan Caamaño**, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Queens College/CUNY

**Michael Janis**, Morehouse College

*"Igbo and Fang: Feminism in West African Women's Fiction in the College Classroom"*

**Cristián H. Ricci**, University of California-Merced

*"Tri-continental Readings on Gender and Cultural Hermaphroditism: Guillermina Mekuy, Najat El Hachmi and Sandra Cisneros"*

**Adam Lifshy**, Georgetown University

*"Beyond the Pale: The Reorientings Required by Equatoguinean and Philippine Literature in Spanish"*

**Naomi McLeod**, University of St. Andrews, Scotland

*"The Construction of Identity in Two Novels by Joaquín Mbomio Bacheng"*

11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. **PANEL VI-B:**

#### MAPPING LANGUAGES IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA: POSTIMPERIAL POLITICS AND PRAGMATISMS

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**James J. Davis**, Department of World Languages and Cultures, Howard University

**John M. Lipski**, The Pennsylvania State University

*"El español de Guinea Ecuatorial: piedra angular de los programas para afrodescendientes"*

**Joseph Désiré Otabela**, University of Missouri-Columbia

*"Francofonía y literatura de Guinea Ecuatorial"*

**Ana Lúcia Sá**, Universidade de Beira Interior, Portugal

*"A Guiné Equatorial e a CPLP: integração e parcerias"*

**Kofi Yakpo**, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

*"Languages of Equatorial Guinea: From Documentation to Implementation"*



1:15-2:30 p.m.

**LIGHT LUNCH** (Sponsored by Hofstra's African Studies Program)  
246 East Library Wing, Axinn Library, South Campus

Introduction of Film Director: **Justo Bolekia Boleká**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea

Projection of the documentary film  
**Cervantes en Africa** (with English subtitles) directed by **Miguel Angel Sikota Ndjoli**  
Audiovisual artist, Equatorial Guinea  
**Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Artist**  
Followed by Q & A with the director

2:30-4:15 p.m. **PANEL VII-A**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS, RESISTANCE, AND CREATIVITY**  
**IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator:  
**Virginia Fons**, Department of Anthropology,  
Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain

**Celestino Nvo Okenve Ndo**, Universidad Politécnica de  
Madrid, Spain  
*"El capitalismo familiar de Guinea Ecuatorial:  
un modelo no sostenible"*

**Michael Ugarte**, University of Missouri-Columbia  
*"Literature of Testimony and Human Rights From Equatorial Guinea:  
From Real Experience to Language"*

**Wenceslao Mansogo Olo Obono**, Professor of UNED  
Equatorial Guinea  
*"Derechos humanos y situación política en Guinea Ecuatorial"*

Respondent:  
**Tutu Alicante**, Lawyer, Founder of EGJustice  
Equatorial Guinea

2:30-4:15 p.m. **PANEL VII-B:**  
**FRAMES OF IDENTITY: FROM TRANSNATIONAL TO LOCAL**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator and Respondent:  
**José Fernando Siale Djangany**, Lawyer, Equatorial Guinea

**Justo Bolekia Boleká**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea  
*"Enculturación y guineoecuatorianidad: reafirmación  
de una identidad"*

**Gerardo Behori Sipi Botau**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea  
*"Guinea Ecuatorial: el pensamiento socio-político del pueblo bubi"*

**Yolanda Aixela Cabré**, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones  
Científicas, Barcelona, Spain  
*"Multiculturalismo, comunidades transnacionales y etnicidad.  
El caso de Malabo"*

**Mary-Alice Waters**, Writer and President, Pathfinder Press  
*"The Transformation of Production and Class Relations in  
Equatorial Guinea, and the Importance of Cuba's Internationalist  
Example in Africa"*

4:30 p.m.

Charter bus departs from California Avenue, Hofstra University, South Campus, to the  
Instituto Cervantes New York.

6-8 p.m.

**ROUND-TABLE OF GUINEAN WRITERS**

Instituto Cervantes New York  
211 East 49th Street, New York, NY

Introductions by:  
**Eduardo Lago**, Director  
**Juan Blas Delgado**, Director of Cultural Activities  
Instituto Cervantes New York

Participants:

<b>Juan Tomás Ávila Laurel</b>	<b>María Nsue Angüe</b>
<b>Gerardo Behori Sipi Botau</b>	<b>José Fernando Siale Djangany</b>
<b>Justo Bolekia Boleká</b>	<b>Remei Sipi Mayo</b>
<b>Juan Manuel Davies Eiso</b>	<b>Francisco Zamora Loboch</b>
<b>Donato Ndongo Bidyogo</b>	

8-9:30 p.m.

Free time in New York

9:30 p.m. sharp

Charter bus departs Institute Cervantes for return trip.  
**Stop 1:** Hofstra University Information Center, California Avenue, South Campus  
**Stop 2:** Long Island Marriott, Uniondale, New York

## SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

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8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

246 East Library Wing Lobby  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Sponsored by the Hofstra University Museum

### Hofstra University Bookstore Book Sale, Display and Book Signings

Display of titles related to Equatorial Guinea  
246 East Library Wing Lobby  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

9:45-11:30 a.m. **PANEL VIII-A:**

### ECONOMIES OF EMPIRE: THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator and Respondent:

**Simon R. Doubleday**, Department of History, Hofstra University

**Juan José Díaz Matarranz**, Universidad de Alcalá  
de Henares, Spain

*"La hacienda pública en Guinea Ecuatorial entre 1900-1923"*

**Josep María Perlasia Botey**, Grupo Ceiba, Spain

*"Notas sobre alcoholismo, identificación étnica y substitución cultural  
en el espacio colonial de Guinea Ecuatorial (1909-1923)"*

**Jordi Sant Gisbert**, Centre D'Estudis Africans, Barcelona, Spain

*"El modelo económico colonial y sus contradicciones,  
Fernando Poo, 1900-1936"*

**Dolores García Cantús**, Universidad de Valencia, Spain

*"El trabajo forzado bubi en la colonia española de Fernando Poo  
entre 1890-1912: Videant Consules"*

9:45-11:30 a.m. **PANEL VIII-B:**

### THE DISAPPEARING ATLANTIC ISLAND: ANNOBÓN

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**María Nieves Alonso Almagro**, Department of Foreign Languages  
and Literatures, Suffolk County Community College/SUNY

**Arlindo Manuel Caldeira**, Centro de História de Além-Mar da  
Universidade Nova, Portugal

*"Organizar la libertad. Independencia de facto en la isla de Ano Bom  
(Annobón) durante los siglos XVIII y XIX"*

**Gustau Nerín Abad**, Historian, Spain

*"¿Socialismo utópico en Annobón? La aventura revolucionaria del  
sargento Castilla (1931-32)"*

**Francisco Zamora Lobo**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea

*"Los paraísos imposibles"*

**Juan Tomás Ávila Laurel**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea

*"La insularidad de Annobón: el refugio de las musas"*

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11:30-11:45 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

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11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **PANEL IX-A:  
INDEPENDENCE DE-REALIZED: 1968 THEN AND NOW**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator and Respondent:

**Michael Ugarte**, Department of Romance Languages and  
Literatures, University of Missouri-Columbia

**Eugenio Nkogo Ondo**, Philosopher, Equatorial Guinea  
**Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Scholar**  
*"Guinea Ecuatorial: reminiscencia histórica, luces y sombras  
de un proyecto político, sueño de un posible resurgimiento"*

**Juan Manuel Davies**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea  
*"Guinea Ecuatorial y la Generación del 68: un sueño perdido,  
una realidad alcanzable"*

**Adolfo Obiang Bikó**, Politician, Equatorial Guinea  
*"Guinea Ecuatorial en el 40 aniversario de su independencia"*

**Donato Ndongo-Bidyogo**, Writer, Equatorial Guinea  
*"Hacer literatura frente al oscurantismo: el contexto social  
de la creación en Guinea Ecuatorial"*

11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **PANEL IX-B:  
TRANSCENDING THE (POST)COLONIAL: IDENTITY AND  
LITERATURE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA TODAY (PART I)**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Rosalía Cornejo Parriego**, Department of Modern Languages  
and Literatures, University of Ottawa, Canada

**Maya García Vinuesa**, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Spain  
*"Desde el limen: María Nsue Angüe y Agnès Agboton. La iniciación  
en las escritoras hispanoafricanas"*

**Clelia Rodríguez**, University of Toronto, Canada  
*"¿Escribiendo la oralidad u oralizando la escritura?  
en Ekomo de María Nsue Angüe"*

**Ana Zapata-Calle**, University of Missouri-Columbia  
*"El camino del 'exilio interior' hacia el infierno en La revuelta  
de los disfraces de José Siale Djangany"*

**Elisa Rizo**, Iowa State University  
*"El teatro guineoecuatoriano como laboratorio de saberes"*

1:30-3 p.m.

**LIGHT LUNCH**

246 East Library Wing, Axinn Library, South Campus

Introduction of film director: **Fernando Gómez Herrero**, Department of History, Hofstra University

Projection of the documentary film

**Subvaloradas, sin ser vistas. Voces literarias de Guinea Ecuatorial** (with English subtitles)

directed by **Mischa G. Hendel**, University of Vienna

Followed by Q & A with the director

### 3:15-5 p.m. **PANEL X-A:**

#### **ETHNOGRAPHIES OLD AND NEW**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**María Hernández Ojeda**, Department of Romance Languages  
and Literatures, Hunter College/CUNY

**Jacint Creus Boixaderas**, Universidad de Barcelona, Spain  
*"¿Alguna vez nos hemos buscado? Una reflexión sobre las  
recopilaciones de las narrativas orales de Guinea"*

**José Martí Pérez**, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas,  
Barcelona, Spain  
*"Tradición y cambio en la práctica de la circuncisión en  
Guinea Ecuatorial"*

**Dolores Aponte Ramos**, University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras  
*"Las insolencias de la extranjería: Guillermina Mekuy  
en llanto de perra"*

**Isabela de Aranzadi**, Anthropologist, Historian and Musician, Spain  
*"El viaje de un tambor, África de ida y vuelta en annoboneses y  
fernandinos. Instrumentos musicales de Guinea Ecuatorial"*

### 3:15-5 p.m. **PANEL X-B:**

#### **TRANSCENDING THE (POST)COLONIAL: IDENTITY AND LITERATURE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA TODAY (PART II)**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Panel Moderator:

**Laurence E. Prescott**, Department of African-American Studies,  
Pennsylvania State University

**José Fernando Siale Djangany**, Writer and Lawyer,  
Equatorial Guinea  
*"Escritores guineanos y expresión literaria"*

**Marta Sofía López Rodríguez**, Universidad de León, Spain  
*"Más allá de exilio: El porteador de Marlow/Canción negra sin color  
de Cesar Mba"*

**Clément Akassi**, Howard University  
*"Sujeto poscolonial, petróleo y nación en Cuentos crudos de Juan  
Tomás Ávila Laurel y en Nambula de Maximiliano Nkogo Esono"*

**Nayra Pérez Hernández**, Universidad de Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria, Spain  
*"La identidad mirada en un paisaje (des)habitado: a través de tres  
décadas de poesía guineoecuatorial"*

5-5:15 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

### 5:15-6:15 p.m. **PANEL XI-A:**

#### **THE PLASTIC ARTS: AN ATTEMPT TO FILL THE VOID**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus

Panel Moderator and Respondent:

**Elvira Dyangani Osé**, Curator and Art Historian from  
Equatorial Guinea, Cornell University

**Ramón Esono Ebalé**, Plastic Artist, Equatorial Guinea  
Interviewed by **Eloisa Vaello Marco**, Assistant to the Director,  
Centro Cultural Español de Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Luis Royo del Pozo**, Plastic Artist, Equatorial Guinea  
Interviewed by **Almudena González Vigil**, Assistant to the Director,  
Centro Cultural Español de Bata, Equatorial Guinea

### 5:15-6:15 p.m. **PANEL XI-B:**

#### **PROJECTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM**

246 East Library Wing  
Axinn Library, South Campus

Introduction of film director: **Fernando Gómez Herrero**,  
Department of History, Hofstra University

**Bajo una misma bandera** (with English subtitles)  
by directors **Cinta Jiménez Cárabe** and **Pablo Salvatierra**  
Followed by Q & A

### 6:15-6:30 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS** by **Benita Sampedro Vizcaya**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus



SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009



7-9:30 p.m.

***CONFERENCE BANQUET***

Hofstra University Club  
David S. Mack Hall, North Campus

Musical performances by  
**Baltasar Nsue Ndong** and **Francisco Zamora Lobo**





## JOSEPH G. ASTMAN DISTINGUISHED CONFERENCE/SYMPOSIUM SCHOLARS

1986	Marilyn French, Author Conference: The World of George Sand	1995	Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Novelist and Essayist Conference: Africa 2000
1988	Andrea Bonanome (Italy), Medical Researcher Conference: Chocolate: Food of the Gods	1995	Nicholas Johnson, Former Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Conference: Eleventh International Interdisciplinary Conference on General Semantics
1989	Edmund W. Gordon, Psychologist Conference: Minorities in Higher Education	1996	Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Scholar Conference: Inscription as Art in the World of Islam
1989	Nicole Pellegrin (France), Scholar Conference: The French Revolution of 1789 and Its Impact	1996	Peter A. Quinn, Author Conference: Irish Literatures: Old and New Worlds
1990	Edmond Morris, Biographer, and Sylvia J. Morris, Biographer Conference: Theodore Roosevelt and the Birth of Modern America	1996	Rem Koolhaas, Founder and Principal, Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Professor of Architecture, Harvard University Conference: (In)Visible Cities: From the Postmodern Metropolis to the Cities of the Future
1990	Dore Ashton, Art Historian Conference: Van Gogh 100	1996	Joyce Carol Oates, Author and Poet Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities, Princeton University Conference: George Sand: History, Politics and Society: From the First Empire to the Third Republic
1990	John Cage, Composer and Artist Conference: Bamboo and Oak: The Impact of East Asia on American Society and Culture	1997	Herbert S. Parmet, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, City University of New York Conference: The Tenth Presidential Conference: George Bush: Leading in a New World
1991	Paul Badura-Skoda (Austria), Musician, and Eva Badura-Skoda (Austria), Musicologist Conference: Mozart: 200 Years of Research and Analysis	1997	Edward Peters, Scholar Conference: Pope Innocent III and His World
1991	Charles W. Smithson, Banker Conference: Innovative Financial Instruments and Development in Financial Services	1997	Mario Lavista (México), Composer Conference: The Hispanic Connection: Spanish and Spanish-American Literature in the Arts of the World
1991	Lucine Amara, Opera Singer Conference: Opera and the "Golden West"	1998	Oren Lyons (Iroquois), Scholar Conference: Native American Experience: Long Island, New York and Beyond
1991	John G. Cawelti, Scholar Conference: Detective Fiction and Film	1998	Will Friedwald, Writer and Frank Sinatra Historian Conference: Frank Sinatra: The Man, The Music, The Legend
1991	Marc Shell, Scholar Conference: Money: Lure, Lore and Liquidity	1999	Jon C. Teaford, Scholar Conference: Nassau County: From Rural Hinterland to Suburban Metropolis
1992	Artie Kamiya, Scholar Conference: East Coast Regional Conference on "Games Children Play"	1999	Michele Luzzati (Italy), Scholar Conference: The Most Ancient of Minorities: History and Culture of the Jews of Italy
1993	Paul John Eakin, Scholar Conference: First Person Singular: Autobiography Past, Present and Future	1999	David B. Ruderman, Scholar Conference: The Most Ancient of Minorities: History and Culture of the Jews of Italy
1994	Tovah Feldshuh, Actress Conference: Women in Theatre: On the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Sarah Bernhardt	1999	Blanche Wiesen Cook, Historian Conference: The Vision of Eleanor Roosevelt: World Citizen Ahead of Her Time
1994	Martin Bauml Duberman, Scholar Conference: Art, Glitter and Glitz: The Theatre of the 1920s Celebrates American Diversity		
1995	Kazuo Sayama (Japan), Writer and Baseball Historian Conference: Baseball and the "Sultan of Swat": Commemorating the 100th Birthday of Babe Ruth		

1999	Donald Spoto, Author Conference: Alfred Hitchcock: In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Alfred Hitchcock	2003	Carl R. Gunther, Historian and Archivist Conference: From Autogiro to Gyroplane: The Past, Present and Future of an Aviation Industry
1999	Michael A. Morrison, Scholar Conference: Millennial Shakespeare: Performance/Text/Scholarship	2003	George D. Jackson, Historian Conference: St. Petersburg 300th Anniversary: The City as a Cradle of Modern Russia
2000	Peter Riddell, Associate Editor, <i>The Times</i> (London) Conference: The Thatcher Years: The Rebirth of Liberty?	2004	J. Richard Hackman, Scholar Conference: Applied Organizational Psychology
2000	Walter Isaacson, Managing Editor, <i>Time</i> Symposium: The Leadership Difference: Rating the Presidents	2004	Edith Grossman, Translator Conference: Don Quixote: The First 400 Years
2000	Jackson R. Bryer, Scholar Conference: A Robert Anderson Retrospective: Theater and Film	2005	Robert Fishman, Scholar Conference: New Visions of Suburban Life: An Interdisciplinary Conference
2000	Carlisle Floyd, Composer, <i>Susannah</i> Conference: Contemporary Opera at the Millennium	2005	Paul Ryan, Scholar Conference: Youth Employment in the Global Economy
2001	Kenneth T. Jackson, Scholar Conference: Redefining Suburban Studies	2005	Douglas Brinkley, Scholar Conference: 11th Presidential Conference: William Jefferson Clinton: The "New Democrat" From Hope
2001	Bill Michaelis, Scholar Conference: The Child's Right to Play: A Global Approach	2006	Ronald G. Knapp, Scholar Conference: Asian Merchant Cultures at the Crossroads
2001	E.L. Doctorow, Author Conference: <i>Moby-Dick</i> 2001: An International Celebration	2006	Anthony Saunders, Scholar Conference: Managing Risk in Financial Institutions: From Theory to Practice
2001	Richard A. Falk, Scholar Conference: 2001: A Peace Odyssey	2006	Eric J. Topol, Scholar Conference: Biomedical Research and the Law
2001	George Wein, Producer Symposium: Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong: A Celebration of Jazz	2006	Cathy L. Jrade, Scholar Symposium: Rubén Darío: 90 Years Later
2002	John Seelye, Scholar Conference: John Steinbeck's Americas	2007	Jay Pasachoff, Scholar Conference: Building a Scientifically Literate Population and Workforce for the 21st Century
2002	Gwen Kirkpatrick, Scholar Symposium: Spanish and Spanish-American Poetry: Transition 2000 and Beyond	2007	Harold Koda, Scholar Conference: Defining Culture Through Dress: Individual and Collective Identities
2002	Howard Zinn, Scholar Symposium: Representing Sacco and Vanzetti	2007	Talal Asad, Scholar Conference: The Politics of Religion-Making
2002	Ian Thomson, Scholar Conference: "If This Is a Man": The Life and Legacy of Primo Levi	2007	Robert Davi, Artist Symposium: Bond, James Bond: The World of 007
2002	Gary Giddins, Biographer Conference: Bing! Crosby and American Culture	2007	Raymond Benson, Scholar Symposium: Bond, James Bond: The World of 007
2003	Robert Kimball, Author and Historian of Musical Theatre Conference: The Broadway Musical: 1920-2020	2007	Richard Kadison, Scholar Conference: College Student Mental Health: Psychological, Institutional and Legal Issues
2003	Juan Tomás Ávila Laurel, Writer, Equatorial Guinea Symposium: Beyond the Patria: Exile, Border-Crossing, and Transnationalism in the Spanish-Speaking World	2007	Jessica Milner Davis, Scholar Conference: At Whom Are We Laughing? Humor in Romance Language Literatures

2008	Alison Stone, Scholar Conference: Philosophy of Luce Irigaray	2009	William F. McComas, Scholar Conference: Darwin's Reach: A Celebration of Darwin's Legacy Across Academic Disciplines
2008	Doug Hesse, Scholar Conference: "Who Owns Writing?" Revisited	2009	Neal A. Baer, M.D., Writer and Executive Producer Symposium: Media and Social Change: Using Entertainment Education to Improve the Outcomes of Health and Social Issues of Women
2008	John A. Pojman, Scholar Symposium: Building a Scientifically Literate Population and Workforce for the 21st Century: The Science of Patterns and Colors	2009	Miguel Angel Sikota Ndjoli, Audio Visual Artist Conference: Between Three Continents: Rethinking Equatorial Guinea on the 40th Anniversary of It's Independence From Spain
2008	Stephen Hart, Scholar Symposium: I Am Going to Speak About Hope: International Poetry Symposium Celebrating the Work of César Vallejo	2009	Eugenio Nkogo Ondo, Philosopher Conference: Between Three Continents: Rethinking Equatorial Guinea on the 40th Anniversary of It's Independence From Spain
2008	Jeffrey T. Sammons, Scholar Conference: The Greatest: From Cassius Clay to Muhammad Ali		



# Hofstra Cultural Center

## Conference and Symposium Schedule

The Hofstra Cultural Center is an internationally renowned organization that includes a conference and symposium component, a music program, and the publication of the proceedings of its conferences and symposia. The activities of the Hofstra Cultural Center augment the offerings of the academic departments of the University.

The conference and symposium component develops educational programs related to the cultural and interdisciplinary experience of students, faculty, staff, alumni and international scholars. It also plans and coordinates conferences and symposia in the fields of humanities, business, law and the sciences to promote the University as an international arena of scholarly thought and to foster Long Island as a cultural entity. The Hofstra Cultural Center has sponsored more than 130 conferences and symposia and has won international recognition for its Presidential Conference Series.

### ► **SPRING 2009**

MEDIA AND SOCIAL CHANGE: USING ENTERTAINMENT EDUCATION TO IMPROVE  
THE OUTCOMES OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES OF WOMEN ..... MARCH 26

BETWEEN THREE CONTINENTS: RETHINKING EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON  
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN ..... APRIL 2-4

PERLE FINE AND EARLY LEADERS OF ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM..... APRIL 24 and 25

### ► **FALL 2009**

THE THEORETICAL INTERSECTIONS OF JEAN GEBSER'S THEORIES  
AND IDENTITY, CIVILIZATION AND CONSCIOUSNESS.....OCTOBER 15-17

THE DIVERSE SUBURB: HISTORY, POLITICS AND PROSPECTS.....OCTOBER 22-24

THE PETER S. KALIKOW PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM:  
PREROGATIVE POWER AND THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY FROM  
LINCOLN TO GEORGE W. BUSH.....NOVEMBER 4 and 5

BORGES AND US: THEN AND ALWAYS.....NOVEMBER 13 and 14

### ► **SPRING 2010**

NEW DIRECTIONS IN AMERICAN HEALTH CARE: INNOVATIONS  
FROM HOME AND ABROAD..... MARCH 11 and 12

CHILD'S PLAY, CHILDREN'S PLEASURES: INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATIONS..... MARCH 19 and 20

THE PETER S. KALIKOW PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM:  
THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ..... NOVEMBER

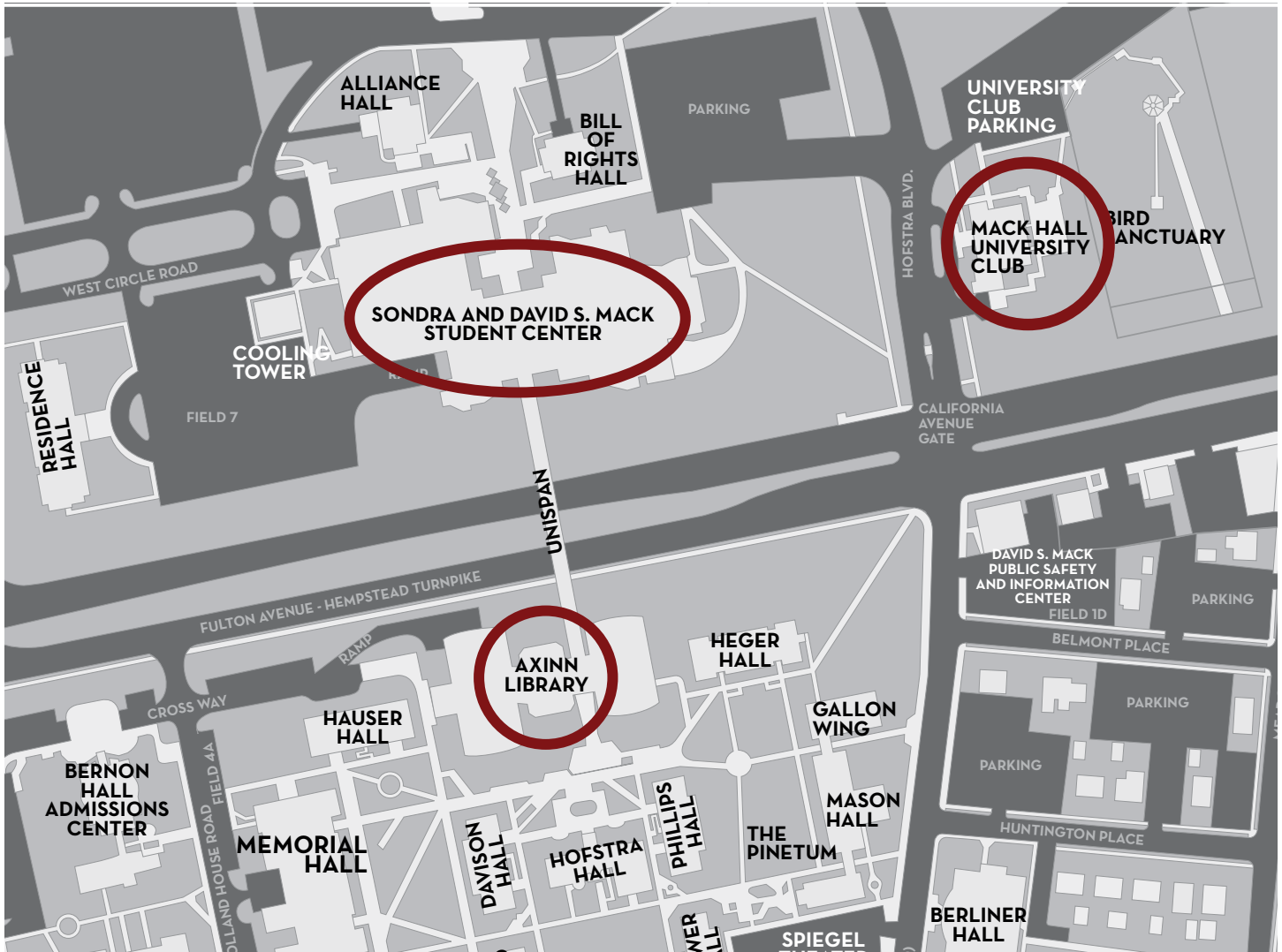
**For "Calls for Papers" and conference and symposium  
registration materials, please contact:**

Hofstra Cultural Center  
113 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549-1130  
Phone: (516) 463-5669  
Fax: (516) 463-4793  
E-mail: [hofculctr@hofstra.edu](mailto:hofculctr@hofstra.edu)  
Web site: [hofstra.edu/culture](http://hofstra.edu/culture)





## Campus Map



### Dining Facilities on the Hofstra University Campus

There are several dining facilities on the campus, some of which are listed below.

#### NORTH CAMPUS

##### Student Center Café

Mack Student Center

7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)  
7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. (Friday)  
10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Saturday)

##### Pura Vida

Mack Student Center

8 a.m.-11 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)  
8 a.m.-3 p.m. (Friday and Saturday)

##### Hofstra University Club

David S. Mack Hall

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

#### SOUTH CAMPUS

##### Café Bistro at

Bits 'n' Bytes

Memorial Hall

7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)  
7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Friday)  
Closed on Saturdays

##### Hofstra Deli

7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)  
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (Friday)  
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Saturday)

##### Axinn Library Café

8 a.m.-midnight (Monday-Thursday)  
8 a.m.-9 p.m. (Friday)  
10 a.m.-10 p.m. (Saturday)  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. (Sunday)

##### Starbucks Café

on the Quad

7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Friday)

**We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and contributions of:**

African Studies Program, Hofstra University

Department of Global Studies and Geography, Hofstra University

Department of History, Hofstra University

Department of Radio, Television, Film, Hofstra University

Department of Political Science, Hofstra University

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Hofstra University

European Studies Program, Hofstra University

Hofstra University Bookstore

Hofstra University Honors College

Hofstra University Museum

Labor Studies Program, Hofstra University

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, Hofstra University

Office of the Dean, Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Hofstra University

Office of the Dean, School of Communication, Hofstra University

Office of the President, Hofstra University

Office of the Provost, Hofstra University

Special Collections/Long Island Studies Institute, Hofstra University

Women's Studies Program, Hofstra University

Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center  
Uniondale, NY

Nassau Library Systems  
Uniondale, NY

Suffolk Cooperative Library System  
Bellport, NY

U.S. Limousine and Car Service  
West Hempstead, NY

# HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As of January 2009

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## HOFSTRA AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Hempstead, Long Island, 25 miles east of New York City. Telephone: (516) 463-6600

**CHARACTER:** A private, nonsectarian, coeducational university.

**FOUNDING DATE:** 1935

**PRESIDENT:** Stuart Rabinowitz, J.D.

**COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS:** Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Frank G. Zarb School of Business; School of Communication; School of Education, Health and Human Services; New College for Interdisciplinary Studies; School of Law; School for University Studies; Honors College; Hofstra University Continuing Education; and Hofstra University School of Medicine in partnership with North Shore-LIJ Health System.

**FACULTY (including librarians):** There are 1,185 faculty members, of whom 551 are full-time. Ninety percent of full-time faculty hold the highest degree in their fields.

**STUDENT BODY:** Full-time undergraduate enrollment of 7,631. Total University enrollment, including part-time undergraduate, graduate and School of Law, is approximately 12,400. Male-female ratio is 44-to-56.

**UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS:** Approximately 150 undergraduate program options.

**GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS:** Graduate degrees, including the Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D., Au.D., and J.D., advanced certificates and professional diplomas, are offered in approximately 160 program options.

**THE HOFSTRA CAMPUS:** With 113 buildings and 240 acres, Hofstra is a member of the American Public Gardens Association.

**LIBRARIES:** The Hofstra Libraries contain 1.2 million print volumes and provide 24/7 online access to more than 47,000 full-text journals and 33,000 electronic books.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Hofstra is 100 percent program accessible to persons with disabilities.

**JANUARY AND SUMMER SESSIONS:** Hofstra offers a January session and three summer sessions between May and August.

Hofstra University continues its commitment to extending equal opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, marital or veteran status in the conduct and operation of its educational programs and activities, including admission and employment. This statement of nondiscrimination is in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other federal, state and local laws. The Americans with Disabilities Act compliance officer in the Plant Department (516) 463-6641 is designated by the University to coordinate its efforts to comply with Section 504. The Equal Rights and Opportunity Officer is the University's official responsible for coordinating its adherence to Title IX and other equal opportunity regulations and laws. Questions or concerns regarding Title IX or other aspects of this policy (other than Section 504) should be directed to the Equal Rights and Opportunity Officer at (516) 463-6775, C/O Office of Legal Affairs and General Counsel, 101 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549.

18009:3/09

## Luis Royo del Pozo: Landscapes of the Interior

**R**econozco esa puesta de sol. Esa intensa luz. Luis Royo del Pozo hace tiempo que pinta desde ese instante en pausa. Al ver su trabajo uno podría creer que ese trazo quieto es un gesto de abandono a la impericia. Pero no lo es. Es justo lo contrario. “He luchado, he vencido, he creído, he perdido” como si reconociera en él estos versos de su madre, la escritora Raquel Ilombe del Pozo Epita, la obra de Royo describe un tiempo y un lugar que ha quedado colgado en su memoria — como los recuerdos borrosos que persiguen al que emprende un viaje. Ilombe nos invita a un perenne ejercicio de nostalgia en su poema “¡Adiós, Guinea, Adiós!” que, como gran parte de la lírica de esta poeta, añora desde el exilio una tierra idealizada. La obra de Royo, en muchos sentidos, surge de ese perpetuo desarraigo, de la constante incertidumbre de la despedida. Una despedida nunca real en su caso, ya que desde su regreso a las costas de Bata en los años 80, no ha vuelto a dejar el país. Su pintura, resultado de esa ambigüedad, se debate entre la melancolía y el optimismo, entre la extenuación y la tenacidad.

En sus primeras producciones Royo explora el paisaje interior, el del propio artista y el de la región continental. Tiene una coartada: un territorio cien veces descubierto, cien veces por descubrir, escenario de historias locales a las que sólo los iniciados tienen acceso. Entonces, sus bosques son un muro inconsistente aunque férreo. Óleo sobre sábanas de algodón, que el tiempo y la tela absorben — el artista pinta sobre el material que tiene a su alcance, algodón, lienzo, papel. Ahora, sus horizontes son legibles. Sus entornos son más abiertos y confiados. Y, sin abandonar la melancolía, ofrece a la mirada del espectador la oportunidad de perderse en una realidad nueva, una Guinea de hoy que el artista imagina aún, dentro de ese tiempo suspendido, en el que aquellos que la observan impávidos quedan a su vez expuestos.

Reconozco ese rostro. Hay pocas obras de este autor en las que la figura humana sea protagonista. Y, cuando lo es, aparece desdibujada, anónima, casi ausente. Aún así uno es capaz de ver en ellas algo extremadamente familiar, algo de las vidas de aquellos que le salen al paso, quién sabe sin en dirección a Bomudi o Ngolo, o tal vez a su vuelta del Mercado Central.

Siempre he creído que las producciones artísticas contemporáneas guineanas, no eran contestatarias con la situación socio-política del país. Pero quizá sea este retrato callado de lo cotidiano, esta representación de lo infraordinario, la mayor prueba de su resistencia. Compañero de tareas vacías, Luis Royo del Pozo persiste en una pintura que, más que un ejercicio individual autocomplaciente, es una narración coral que no cesa. Ese compromiso es para el artista “su amante” y él “amor que nunca olvida.”

— Elvira Dyangani Ose

**T**he sunset, the intense light, is instantly recognizable. For some time now, Luis Royo del Pozo has been painting that moment, suspended in time. Seeing his work, one might think that the calm brushstroke reflects surrender to lethargy. But it is not: quite the contrary. “I have fought, I have conquered, I have believed, I have lost”: it is as if one finds in Royo the verses of his mother, the poet Raquel Ilombe del Pozo Epita. His work inscribes a time and a place that survives in his memory — like those hazy recollections that follow a traveler beginning the journey. Ilombe invites us to a perennial nostalgia in her poem “Adiós, Guinea, Adiós!” which, like a good deal of her writing, expresses the exile’s longing for an idealized homeland. The work



of Royo, in many ways, arises from that perpetual uprooting, the constant uncertainties of departure. A departure never quite real in his case: after returning to the coasts of Bata in the 1980s, he has not left Guinea again. His painting, the result of that ambiguity, oscillates between melancholy and optimism, exhaustion and tenacity.

In his early work, Royo explores an interior landscape: that of the artist himself, and that of the continental region (Rio Muni). This is a territory discovered a hundred times, and a hundred times left undiscovered: a scene of unfolding events that only the initiated can access. Its forests form a permeable, if ironclad, wall. An oil painting on cotton, which time and the canvas absorb: the artist paints upon whatever material lies at hand — cotton, linen, paper. Now, his horizons are clearer, his landscapes more open and confident. Without abandoning melancholy, he offers the viewer the chance to become lost in the new reality of contemporary Guinea: one the artist still imagines within that moment, suspended in time, to which intrepid observers themselves remain exposed.

That face is instantly recognizable. There are few works by this painter in which the human figure is the protagonist, and when it is, it appears undefined, anonymous, almost absent. Yet one can still see in these works something deeply familiar: something of the lives of those who have just left: who knows, towards Bomudi or Ngolo, or maybe on the way to the Central Market.

I have never envisaged contemporary Guinean painting as being confrontational, with regard to the country’s social or political situation. But perhaps it is this quiet depiction of quotidian life, this representation of the infra-ordinary, that is the real proof of resistance. Luis Royo del Pozo remains committed to a kind of painting that, more than an individual exercise in self-satisfaction, is an unceasing choral narration. This commitment is, for the artist, “his lover,” and “the love that never forgets.”

— Elvira Dyangani Ose  
*Translated by Simon Doubleday*



