Beyond Visibility: Rethinking the African Diaspora in Latin America.

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Call for Papers:

Beyond Visibility: Rethinking the African Diaspora in Latin America.
March 1-2, 2007

University of California-Berkeley.

In recent years there has been an explosion in scholarship that goes beyond recognizing the presence of Afro-Latin Americans and towards interrogating this topic more deeply. Through this inaugural conference, we intend to build on this momentum -- advancing inter-disciplinary scholarship on the African Diaspora in Latin America by moving towards research that critically engages the theoretical and methodological challenges of this research. Organized by the Afro-Latino Working Group at UC Berkeley's Center for Latin American Studies, we aim to create a forum for graduate students to dialogue with established scholars whose work explores the African Diaspora in Latin America. This conference will foster new dialogues about race, ethnicity, culture, society, economy, politics and nation in the academic world.

The conference will feature a series of graduate student panels as well as a faculty keynote and roundtable discussion from preeminent scholars working on the African Diaspora in Latin America. We invite abstract submissions from current graduate students on a diverse array of topics and disciplinary orientations that are both theoretical and empirical in content. The conference is oriented towards graduate students pursuing projects about the African Diaspora in the Americas (including Mexico, Central and South America, and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean). Specifically, we strongly encourage papers that address under-theorized regions in the Americas as well as comparative and regional works. We offer the following themes as submission suggestions:

Theory and Pedagogy: New Directions in the Field;
Social Movements and the Politics of Race;
Media and Cultural Representations;
Identity, Race and Ethnicity;
Migration and Transnationalism;
Folklore and National Identity;
Comparative Historical and Literary Analysis.

500 word abstracts should be submitted to the organizing committee via email as word documents or PDF files. Please submit abstracts by November 3, 2006. Submissions should include the abstract, current contact information, presentation title and current C.V. Accepted authors will be notified by December 15, along with full submission guidelines for papers and/or presentations. Full papers are due on January 5. All papers and presentations must be available in English. Papers will be made available through the Center for Latin American Studies.

Submissions and inquiries should be sent to: afrolatinogroup@berkeley.edu or via USPS to Vielka C. Hoy, Afro-Latino Working Group, 660 Barrows Hall, #2572, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Please check our website regularly for updated conference and registration information: