

Anti-racism between Latin America and the UK

The Mechanics Institute

11.00-16.00, Thursday 1 November 2018

Location: Peterloo Room, The Mechanics Institute, 103 Princess St, Manchester M1 6DD
(tel. 070 9330 1622), <https://www.mechanicsinstitute.co.uk/>

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Rationale

This event aims to create a productive dialogue between members of a team carrying out a research project on anti-racism in Latin America and invited UK-based stakeholders with an interest in anti-racism. We are interested to explore whether our Latin American research is of interest and perhaps also of use for anti-racism in the UK. We want to promote the recognition of anti-racism as a global project, and to think collectively about new ways to build resilient networks and strategies for undermining racism.

Our research project is called “Latin American Antiracism in a ‘Post-Racial’ Age”, LAPORA (see <https://www.lapora.sociology.cam.ac.uk/>), and it is directed by Mónica Moreno Figueroa (University of Cambridge) and Peter Wade (University of Manchester). The project employed four post-doctoral researchers who undertook 9 months of fieldwork in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, working with diverse organisations, from government agencies to grass-roots groups, concerned in some way with challenging racism or fighting for the rights of Black and Indigenous minorities.

One of the premises of our project is that the Latin American experience might be interesting for people and organisations outside Latin America, who are also challenging racism; and that it might be useful for people on both sides of the Atlantic to build networks. Latin America’s long history of race mixture between Europeans, Africans and native Americans has created societies in which very many - and in some cases a majority - of people identify as “mestizos” (people of mixed ancestry). This has encouraged the long-standing denial or minimisation of racism, alongside a tendency to label people who draw attention to racism as themselves racist or at least counter-productive for society. We think that these features are now increasingly relevant to regions outside Latin America, such as the UK and the United States, where they underpin claims that we are living in “post-racial” times - despite the evident increase in racism. In particular, increasing rates of inter-racial marriage are often pointed to as evidence of an overall trend towards “assimilation”. Latin American anti-racists have long had to challenge such “post-racial” claims and it will be interesting to see to what extent Latin American experiences resonate with those in the UK.

Format of the event

10.45 - 11.00 Tea and coffee available

11.00 - 11.30 Presentation by Mónica and Peter, outlining the LAPORA project, its findings and what we think might be of interest to a UK audience.

11.30 - 12.30 We will invite each organisation (or individual) to talk for a maximum of 10 minutes on the challenges they have encountered in pursuing anti-racist strategies and actions in their experience/field; and the strategies and actions they have found most useful/effective.

12.30 - 1.30 Lunch

13.30 - 14.30 Organisation/individual talks, continued.

14.30 - 15.45 We will break out into four round-tables focusing on four social areas which are important for racism and anti-racism. Each table/theme will have a LAPORA researcher as moderator. The themes (and moderators) are:

- the law (María)
- education (Kiki)
- entrepreneurship/professionalization/social mobility (Gisela)
- the media (Luciane)

We invite the rest of the participants to circulate between the tables. The plan is change tables every fifteen minutes, speed-dating style, but we'll see how it works out. For each group, the moderator will introduce the theme, in relation to our Latin American research, and then open the discussion.

15.45 - 16.00 Wrap-up and feedback

16.00 - 16.30 Departure. Tea and coffee available. (We would like to film some very short video clips with a few participants, asking for their impressions of the day.)

Participants: *Invited guests*

Name	Organisation
Alan Anstead (Coordinator)	UK Race and Europe Network (UKREN)
Stephen Welsh (Curator of Living Cultures)	Manchester Museum
Hannah Niblett (Collections Access Officer, Race Relations Centre) Jennifer Vickers (Coming In From the Cold Project Manager)	Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust
Yvonne Ayo Susann Savidge	People in Harmony
Amna Abdullatif (Vice Chair)	Manchester BME network
Juan Carlos Gomes Sandra Rice	LASNET (part of Migrant Support, and Coalition of Latin Americans in the UK)
Luthfur Rahman (Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure)	Manchester City Council
Richard Benjamin (Director)	Liverpool International Slavery Museum
Christine Pungong (Welfare and Rights Officer)	Cambridge University Students' Union

Participants: *LAPORA team members*

Gisela Carlos-Fregoso	Postdoctoral Researcher for Mexico
Krisna “Kiki” Ruetten-Orihuela	Postdoctoral Researcher for Colombia
María Moreno	Postdoctoral Researcher for Ecuador
Luciane Rocha	Postdoctoral Researcher for Brazil
Mónica Moreno-Figueroa	Project Director
Peter Wade	Project Co-director
Emiko Saldívar	Project International Advisor

Participants: *Others*

These are people who are attending our academic symposium (2-3 November), who have chosen to participate in this event.

Ginetta Candelario	Professor, Sociology and Latin American & Latino/a Studies, Smith College, USA
Niousha Roshani	Postdoctoral Fellow, Afro-Latin American Research Institute (ALARI), University of Harvard, USA