

III Symposium Chair of African and Caribbean Studies (Afro)Multidimensional Resistance, Inequalities and Mobilities

**Universidad de Costa Rica
San Pedro, Limón, Costa Rica
Febrero 18-21, 2025**

In celebration of a decade of dedicated work and in alignment with the conclusion of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), as declared by the United Nations to promote public policies focused on 'Recognition, Justice, and Development' for people of African descent, the Program of African and Caribbean Studies at the University of Costa Rica is delighted to invite the international academic community to its Third International Symposium titled: “(Afro)Multidimensional Resistance, Inequalities, and Mobilities”.

Drawing from various perspectives on global inequality, including its intersections and dimensions, and considering the diverse conditions affecting people’s lives, opportunities, and access to resources, the symposium will focus on examining how inequalities impact Afro-descendant and Black African populations from a critical standpoint. The symposium will also explore how inequalities—understood as a historical and structural characteristic of Latin American, Caribbean, and global societies—specifically impact these populations.

Building on its two previous international symposia, The Meaning of Blackness I (2014) and The Meaning of Blackness II (2016), which served as critical platforms for dialogue and debate on the contours and challenges of Afro-descendant representation in Latin American societies, the Program of African and Caribbean Studies aims to revisit and expand these discussions. This third symposium seeks to stimulate international academic debate on historical and multidimensional inequalities by examining global dynamics and processes that, while extending beyond nation-states, influence their various inclusion and equity dynamics.

The symposium encourages the academic community to approach these topics from an (Afro)global and multidimensional perspective, integrating histories, people, phenomena, dynamics, and research that span African, Caribbean, and Latin American contexts. It aims to contextualize these discussions within long-term historical processes to reveal patterns of rupture, continuity, and interconnection. In an era where the institutions and norms that have supported the inclusion of diverse groups in the creation of nations and states are being questioned, it is vital to examine historical issues and debates, including racism, xenophobia, exclusion, inequality, and justice.

As a result of social movements, political actions, academic research, and pressure from international organizations, significant progress was made from the 1990s onward. During this period, constitutional changes particularly in Latin America, led to the recognition of equal economic and political rights for all individuals. Additionally, there has been a growing recognition of diversity within states, challenging the previously dominant notion of “homogeneous” national communities.

In recent decades, significant progress has been made on a wide range of issues, including the struggle for recognition of territorial rights, allocation of national budgets funds, salary parity, and political representation in both state and international bodies. Additionally, there have been advancements in acknowledging these issues within national histories, literature, and art, alongside efforts to strengthen multilateral ties with a focus on the Global South.

The symposium aims to provide a space for critical reflection and dialogue on the potential and limitations of these advancements, encompassing both theoretical and academic perspectives as well as broader political and social contexts. It seeks to frame these discussions within the context of the necessary social changes required to foster more egalitarian, equitable, and inclusive societies.

For its third edition in 2025, the symposium will focus on the following themes and invites participants to explore:

1. Critical Perspectives on Essentialisms and Methodological Nationalisms.
2. Global Migration Dynamics, Borderization, and Irregularity.
3. Diversity, Heterogeneities, and Citizenship from a Historical Perspective.
4. Social Mobility and Transcontinental Life Histories.
5. Forms of Exclusion and Invisibilization in Education, Texts, and School Narratives.
6. Representation, Elections, and Political Participation of Black and Afro-descendant Peoples.
7. Political Religious Movements, Conservatism, and Nationalisms.
8. Afro-descendant Rights in the Context of Economic Inequality and Technological Transformations.
9. Forced Migration and the Legacies of the Enslaved Era.
10. Gentrification, Tourism, and the Displacement of Afro-descendant Communities.
11. Territoriality, Property, and Sovereignty.
12. Justice, Dynamics of Ethnic-Racial Discrimination, and State Challenges.
13. Life Experiences and Resistance during the Enslaved Era.
14. Epistemology and Ethics in Afro-global Studies.

Those interested in presenting papers on the themes of this symposium are invited to submit a **short CV, a title, and a 300-word abstract, including a brief reference to the sources used in their research**. As scholars our task is to ensure that the knowledge produced is accurate, grounded in scientific research, and supported by available documentation.

Deadline: November 30th, 2024.

Proposals may be submitted in either Spanish or English to:
catedraafricacaribe.vd@ucr.ac.cr.

**Please note that the organization does not have resources to cover the costs of visas, transportation, or accommodation.

The event is sponsored by:

Decanato, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Costa Rica
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