

THE INSTITUTE FOR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

And

THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS, JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PRESENT

PUERTO RICO, THE DEBT CRISIS AND SELF-DETERMINATION:

EXPLORING PATHS TO DECOLONIZATION

April 13-15, 2016

At

John Jay College Of Criminal Justice

524 W 59th St., New York, NY 10019

Puerto Rico's colonial status has recently become a topic of great interest in American media, the federal government and finance circles because of the island's inability to pay its \$72 billion debt. As a colony Puerto Rico cannot avail itself of United States Bankruptcy laws to restructure its debt and it cannot expect a bailout from the U.S. Confronted with the inaction of the U.S., the three principal Puerto Rican political parties agree that the "commonwealth" arrangement with the U.S. no longer works for the people of Puerto Rico. As a result, and in order to end the Puerto Rican financial and economic crises, it is necessary, they believe, to find alternatives to the status quo. From an international law perspective, one of those alternatives is self-determination.

Regrettably, much of the discourse about Puerto Rico's debt crisis has dwelled on just that - the debt, and how to address it. Consequently, the public, including many Puerto Ricans on the island and on the mainland, lacks an understanding of the historical underpinnings of the crisis. Little attention has been focused on the fundamental realities that have led to today's situation and whether those realities imperil the ability of Puerto Rico - with the help of the federal government - to resolve the crisis and chart a path forward to responsible management of the economy and increased productivity.

Given the lack of attention to these circumstances, this conference will explore how the "commonwealth" status has contributed to the crisis and why the people of Puerto Rico, who form a nation, have been unable to secure their right to self-determination through the United Nations decolonization process. For that purpose, the conference will trace the evolution of the principle of self-determination into an international human right and the establishment of the decolonization process as a method to secure this right as recognized in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It will also examine how the United States has maintained Puerto Rico as an unincorporated territory through the adoption of a series of laws known collectively as the "Insular Cases." Finally, it will explore paths of decolonization that can guarantee to Puerto Ricans - residing in Puerto Rico and in the Diaspora - their right to self-determination.

PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Registration: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Welcome Remarks – 5:00 p.m., Location: BMW building, room 613

Anthony Carpi, Associate Provost and Dean of Research at John Jay College

Documentary: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. “The Last Colony” (1:30 min)

Discussion with filmmaker Juan Agustín Márquez: 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Reception - Networking: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday - April 14, 2016

Registration - Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Remarks - 9:30 a.m., Location: New Building, room 9.64

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Panel A: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Location: New Building, room 9.64

The Principle of Self Determination and the Process of Decolonization:

Historical and Legal Perspectives

George Andreopoulos. Professor of Political Science, City University of New York. *Self-Determination: Trials and Tribulations of an Evolving Doctrine.*

María Victoria Pérez Ríos. Adjunct Assistant Professor, Political Science, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. *Former Spanish Territories and Their Quest for Self-Determination in the 21st Century: Western Sahara and Puerto Rico.*

José Luis Morín. Professor of Latin American and Latina/o Studies, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. *Disentangling the Colonial Conundrum: Understanding the International Law Dimensions of Puerto Rico’s Status Question.*

Olga I. Sanabria Dávila. Secretaria Ejecutiva, Comité de Puerto Rico en la ONU. *A history of the Puerto Rican Case before the UN Special Decolonization Committee.*

Milena Sterio. Professor of Law & Associate Dean for Academic Enrichment, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. *Self Determination: The Legal Framework.*

Moderator: Juan Cartagena Esq. President & General Counsel, Latino Justice PRLDEF.

Lunch: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker – 1:00 p.m. Location: New Building, room 9.64

The Honorable Juan R. Torruella, Judge, U.S. Court Of Appeals, First Circuit

Panel B: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Location: New Building, room 9.64

Puerto Rico's Financial & Economic Crisis:

Debt Restructuring and Prospects for Sustainable Economic Development

Richard Wolff. Economist, New School University. *Politics and Puerto Rico's Financial Crisis*

Rafael Bernabe. "Puerto Rico in the American Century", *Debt and Self-Determination*.

Marisa Soto. Attorney at Law. *Bankruptcy Law, Benefits of Structured Debt Restructuring*.

Carmen Pacheco, Esq. Pacheco & Lugo, Attorney at Law. *Puerto Rico's Legal Status and Public Debt with a focus on Puerto Rico v. Sanchez Valle and Franklin California Tax-free Trust v. Puerto Rico*

Moderator: Ismael Betancourt Jr., MBA, MA, President & CEO of IF-MC-CA-DI

Panel C: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Location: New Building, room 9.64

Economic Juggernaut:

A History of Trade Restrictions, Bond Debts, Neoliberal Policies, and the Impoverishment of Puerto Ricans

Rosario Rivera-Negrón. Economist, University of Puerto Rico. *Overmastered in the shadows of [Post] colonialism: economic and fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico from a historical perspective (1950-2016)*.

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan. Attorney, Latino Justice PRLDEF. *Puerto Rico's Odious Debt: The Economic Crisis of Colonialism*.

Hector R. Cordero-Guzman. Professor School of Public Affairs Baruch College City University of New York. *Income Inequality, Poverty, and Social Welfare in Puerto Rico In Times of Crisis*.

Moderator: Nelson Denis. JD, Harvard. "War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony"



Friday- April 15, 2016

Registration - Breakfast: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Remarks - 9:30 a.m., Location: BMW building, room 613

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Panel A: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Location: BMW building, room 613

Puerto Rico's Colonial History, Citizenship & Nationality

Ismael Betancourt. Jr., MBA, MA, President & CEO, IF-MC-CA-DI. *The State of the Nation*.

Nelson Denis. JD, Harvard Law School. *War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony*

María Elena Pizarro. Adjunct, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. *Statehood verses Nationhood: Examining the Status of Puerto Rico as an "Unincorporated Territory" and its Prospects for Self-determination*.

Rafael Cox Alomar. JD Harvard Law School, Assistant Professor of Law, University of the District of Columbia School of Law. *The Re-Conceptualization of Puerto Rican Autonomous Movement*.

Harry, Franqui - Rivera. PhD, Research Associate, *The Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, Hunter College, City University of New York. *War and Citizenship: The Cannon Fodder Myth and WW1*.

Moderator: José Luis Morín. Professor of Latin American and Latina/o Studies, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Lunch: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker – 1:00 p.m. Location: BMW building, room 613

Efrén Rivera Ramos Professor of Law,
Former Dean, University of Puerto Rico School Of Law,
"The Legal Construction of Identity: The Judicial and Social Legacy of American Colonialism in Puerto Rico."

Panel B: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Location: BMW building, room 613

Role of the Diaspora and Paths to Decolonization

Hilda Lloréns. Assistant Professor Sociology/Anthropology University of Rhode Island & Dr. Carlos Garcia – Quijano. Associate Professor Anthropology University of Rhode Island. *Everyday Acts of Resilience among Puerto Ricans*.

Andrés Torres. Distinguished Lecturer, Lehman College. *Diaspora Solidarity: a Historical Perspective*.

Luis Barrios. Professor, Latin American & Latina/o Studies, John Jay College. *Psychological liberation: The case of Puerto Rico*

Moderator: Natalia Velez, Professor of Law, CUNY Law School.

Panel C: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Location: BMW building, room 613

Puerto Rican Voices: Thoughts on Current Crisis and Hopes for the Future

Georgina Falú. Founder, Falú Foundation, Adjunct Professor at City College. *Puerto Rican Voices: Thoughts on Current Crisis - Let's organize our own Enterprises and Create our own JOBS.*

Walter Alomar. MD, JD, University of Puerto Rico. *Health Crisis in Puerto Rico and the Future of Puerto Rican Youth.*

Juan C. Dávila Santiago. Documentarian: *Screening of La generación del estanbai (The Stand-By Generation).*

Hannah Berg. Global Public Health/Anthropology Student NYU - Presenting Photography work by Perla de Leon. *The South Bronx & Vieques During Their Intense Decade of Fire.*

Moderator: María Elena Pizarro. Adjunct, Department of Political Science, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Refreshments - Hors d'oeuvres: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Location: BMW building, room 613

Please note this program schedule is subject to change

