**Call for papers**

**Dossier:** **Contemporary African Migrations in Latin America**

Coordination:

Dr. Guillermo A. Navarro Alvarado, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad de Costa Rica

[guillermo.navarro@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:guillermo.navarro@ucr.ac.cr)

Dra. Luz Espiro, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

[mluzespiro@gmail.com](mailto:mluzespiro@gmail.com)

Dr. Régis Minvielle, Institut de recherche pour le développement, France

[minviellergis@yahoo.fr](mailto:minviellergis@yahoo.fr)

The significant growth of irregular African migrants in Latin America in the first two decades of the 21st century has shaped the landscape of governmental concerns and the outlines of new migratory, social and cultural phenomena within the region.

This phenomenon combines contexts defined by transcontinental and regional mobilities and the erection of physical (walls, fences, barbed wire) or virtual (biometrics, introduction of visas, deployment of maritime patrols) barriers at a global level. Therefore, proscriptive scenarios arise, marked by restriction logic that hinders circulation, increases the influence of intermediaries, and makes border crossings more and more dangerous, diverting routes. Within this restrictive context and the accelerating globalisation of the South, Latin America appears on the roadmap of African migrants.

Countries such as Argentina and Brazil, or cities such as Buenos Aires and São Paulo, have experienced the presence of African migrants of diverse origins, who have become part of everyday life in large cities and challenged the 'classic' canons of regional migration. In addition, complex spaces such as the Darien jungle between Panama and Colombia and border and rural communities throughout Central America have experienced the transit, mobility and immobility of massive flows of African migrants since the early 2000s. The latter is a relatively recent but growing phenomenon in the region.

These migrants currently constitute one of the main movements traversing the continent, deploying long-distance journeys throughout multiple routes. Journeys from South America to Mexico along the Andean, Atlantic and Mesoamerican corridors, in varied combinations, stays, strategies and timings, seem to aim at the United States, Canada, or European and Asian countries.

These movements brought about transformations in migration policies, new dynamics of border control and externalisation processes, as well as ethnic boundaries changing, dynamics of solidarity, forms of racialisation and racism. Consequently, there was a revival of the connection between contemporary African migration and historical memories of Africans in the region. The discussion topics include the erasure of African legacy, the ethnocide and racialisation experienced by Afro-descendant and ethnically diverse populations across the Americas, among others.

Such processes have caught the attention of researchers within the region, who produce a large corpus of qualitative and quantitative research, making the phenomena visible and understanding their implications and scope.

Based on these processes, conflicts and issues, the dossier calls for the submission of original articles that analyse contemporary African migration in Latin America from the following two main themes:

* *Diversities, cultures, identities, experiences of reception and discrimination in the Americas:* During migration itineraries throughout the Americas, African migrants are affected by a spectrum of assumptions and preconceptions, tracked from the time of slavery and post-colonial depictions, which are polarised around issues of underdevelopment and poverty. Nevertheless, despite the stereotypes and discrimination that place African migrants very often alongside the most precarious and stigmatised sectors of the working classes, multiple social ties are established between these newcomers and the Latin American populations. Living together in the public space with other communities stimulates cosmopolitan solidarities, cultural connections, social and political movements and organisations. All these redefine identities that claim to be considered from an angle of fluidity. Whether around migration status, Africanness, religion or even intimacy, these links are part of the re-composition of identities in the society in which these migratory trajectories occur. Neither monolithic nor exclusive, ‘otherness’ often constitutes for migrants ‘a material and symbolic resource’ by making, for instance, Africanness a commercial and artistic opportunity. Therefore, this Special Issue welcomes contributions that address the issue of African migration focusing on the fluctuations between racialisation and the forging of cosmopolitan links, paying particular attention to the interwoven social relations and the meaning they acquire in the context of Afro-descendant presences and ethnic diversities.
* *Itineraries, transits, networks, mobilities and migratory routes throughout the Americas:* This Special Issue calls for papers that critically analyse the complexities and heterogeneities embedded in the trajectories of African migrants. In this respect, it also encourages analyses focused on migratory networks and the resources that circulate for facilitating the movement and insertion of migrants in specific contexts, the intersections among multiple network types, and their role in defining migratory patterns. This perspective acknowledges the tensions and inequalities between actors, as well as the strategies of cooperation and solidarity that articulate them. Also of interest is research related to control issues, hindrance of mobility and new forms of migratory control that involve African itineraries in the region. In this vein, we call for contributions that address processes of mobility/immobility across regional corridors, considering tensions between migration control policies and the migrant struggles that challenge and reshape them. We also call for contributions that analyse border externalisation effects on shaping the routes followed by African migrants and forming new spaces of permanence in the region. Finally, the theme considers the articulations between labour and mobility experiences that outline specific migratory itineraries. Mobility regimes have effects on the unequal insertion of African migrants in Latin American labour markets and on the production of precarious migratory-labour trajectories. On the other hand, migrants confront and potentially contest this exploitation with innovative practices of resistance and organisation to overcome restrictions and have better life opportunities. Hence, analyses that cover these dynamics are also welcome.

**Coordination:**

**Dr. Guillermo A. Navarro Alvarado, Universidad de Costa Rica**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6459-7262>

PhD in Ethnic and African Studies, Federal University of Bahia-Brazil (2018) and B.A. in Sociology, University of Costa Rica (2013).

He is currently the Coordinator of the Chair of African and Caribbean Studies, a lecturer at the School of Sociology, and a researcher at the Institute of Social Research of the University of Costa Rica. His research interests are in the history of Pan-Africanism, contemporary African migrations in Latin America and ethno-racial relations in Costa Rica. He has published widely in the areas of critical studies of racism, Africans, Caribbean and Brazilians, on various topics: history of Pan-Africanism, contemporary African migration, racism and popular cultures.

**Dra. Luz Espiro, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina**

<https://conicet-ar.academia.edu/LuzEspiro/Papers>

PhD in Natural Sciences with specialisation in Anthropology, National University of La Plata (2019), and B.A. in Anthropology, National University of La Plata (2012).

She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina - National University of La Plata, a lecturer at the Department of Humanities, Universidad de San Andrés and a Guest Professor at the M.A. International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants, University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Germany. Her research interests are in migration studies, African migration to the Southern Cone, labour, transnationalism, gender and visual methodologies. She has published in national and international academic journals and press. As a member of the Audiovisual Archive Observatorio Sur, she organises the annual International African Film Festival in Argentina.

**Dr. Régis Minvielle, Institut de recherche pour le développement, France**

He is a social anthropologist in the LPED (Laboratoire Population Environnement Développement) research group at the IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement). He first studied the movements of men and women between the south and north of the Sahara. He now devotes his research to the social and identity dimensions of African itineraries in Latin America.

**Receipt of articles: cal.migrations@gmail.com**

**Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2023**

**The *Cahiers des Amériques latines* also receive, throughout the year, proposals for the section “Varia”: iheal.cal@gmail.com**