

Theory of race in Latin America – the first 60 years, 1900-1960

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The concept of race was updated, modernized and adjusted to Latin America in the period 1900-1920. In the late 1920s and even more so the 1930s the concept starts to be criticized, within the growing modernism move, also as a result of new perspectives in the social sciences. In the early 1950s the Unesco manifesto on the notion of race, which benefits from the contribution of important Latin American scholars as well as from the outcome of fieldwork on race relations in Brazil, seals such crisis and proposes the substitution of the term/notion of race with the notion of ethnic identity.

Participation in class (reading the session texts and speaking) is essential and counts for 30% of the final note, there is also an oral presentation or research document (30%), and a final dissertation (40%).

Students are supposed to read at least but no more than 1 text in English/Portuguese or Spanish per week.

The course will be taught in French and is organized into three sections.

I. Positivism: the “people” as the problem (classes 1 to 5)

The esthetic of racial hierarchies – the Lombroso Galaxy and the creolizing of physiognomy in Latin America

Nina Rodrigues

Fernando Ortiz

Jose Ingenieros

“Policilogia” and endocrinology

Federal Police in Rio: Leonidio Riberio with his homosexuals, transvestites and other deviants

Havana Police Academy

Buenos Aires & La Plata: Juan Vuchetich and the struggle about fingerprints.

The museums of deviance and crime: Havana, Buenos Aires & La Plata, Salvador and Rio.

II. The coming of *modernismos*: the “people” as the solution (classes 6 to 9)

The national and international making of Latin American *modernismos*

Lorenzo Dow Turner, E. Franklin Frazier, Frances and Melville Herskovits in Brazil.

III. The death of the Races and the birth of ethnic identities (classes 10-12)

The 1950 Unesco statement on race and Latin America

Field Station Bahia

Wrap-up seminar

References:

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- 2004. Measures of Equality. Social Science, Citizenship, and Race in Cuba, 1902-1940. Chapel Hill (NC): The University of North Carolina Press.
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- 2010 [cerca de 1935]. "Ciência, homossexualismo e endocrinologia", Revista Latino-americana de Psicopatologia Fundamental 13, 3: 498-511.
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- forthcoming. Field Station Bahia. Lorenzo Dow Turner, E. Franklin Frazier, Frances and Melville Herskovits and the transnational making of Afro-Brazilian studies, 1935-1967.
- Scarzanella, Eugenia, 1998. "El 'Lunfardo' en le gabinete del Doctor Lombroso. La antropologia criminal en Argentina, 1894-1913". In: AA.VV. America latina, dallo stato coloniale allo stato nazionale. Milano: Franco Angeli, 887-897.