2015-2016 LAIS FILM AND CULTURE SERIES
PROPOSAL

“Engaging Race and Ethnicity in the Americas”

FORMAT
The series will consist of six events and open to all UD students and faculty. There will be four film screenings, two guest lectures, an event highlighting Latin American videogame design and a two-day symposium that will include a workshop on the Theater of the Oppressed, led by the Theater of the Oppressed Laboratory in New York City. At each event, an informal reception with refreshments will allow interaction between faculty and students.

SCHEDULE
Wednesday September 9 2015 5:30 pm Memorial 111
Film: Contracorriente (2009, Peru/Colombia)
Presented by Persephone Braham, Associate Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature, University of Delaware
A quietly impassioned and sensual film with a breathtaking natural setting, Contracorriente (Undertow) engages honestly with questions of gender performance and sexual orientation in a small, deeply religious fishing town. Subtle elements of magical realism heighten the film's lyrical beauty.

Thursday September 17 2015 7:00 pm Trabant Multipurpose Room
Annual Latino Heritage Month Extravaganza featuring Sonia Manzano
Presented by Kasandra Moye, Director Center for Black Culture
For nearly 45 years, Sonia Manzano has inspired and educated children and families as "Maria" on Sesame Street. Named among the “25 Greatest Latino Role Models Ever” by Latina Magazine, Manzano broke ground as one of the first Hispanic characters on national television. Manzano has received numerous awards as writer and performer, including 15 Emmy Awards. In 2004, she was induced into the Bronx Hall of Fame.
[Organized by the Center for Black Culture]

Tuesday September 22, 2015 2:00 pm Trabant Theater
Event: Guest lecture by Dr. Amy Ritterbusch (Universidad de los Andes, Bogota-Colombia), “Mobilities at Gun Point: The Geographies of (Im)mobility of Transgender Youth in Colombia"
Presented by Pascha Bueno-Hansen, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies, University of Delaware
Drawing from geo-ethnographic data conducted in Colombia with marginalized youth populations, this presentation explores the socio-spatial exclusion and (im)mobility of the oppressed, subjugated and persecuted through the social cartographies, geo-narratives, and auto-photographic images of transgender youth that were forced to leave their birth cities and rural communities in Colombia.
[Organized by the Latin American and Iberian Studies and the Sexuality and Gender Studies programs]
Wednesday October 7 2015, 5:30 pm Memorial 111

**Film: Eternal Amazon (2013, Brazil)**
Presented by Eve Buckley, Assistant Professor of History, University of Delaware
This breathtaking film presents a critical analysis of how the world’s largest tropical forest is understood and utilized. Exploring the Amazon’s five million square kilometers, the film asks whether it is possible for humans to make sustainable use of the rainforest by featuring nine successful projects for sustainable forest use that directly benefit the local population and foster good economic partnerships.

Saturday November 14, 2015 Morris Library

**Event: Highlights from Latin American Videogame Design**
Presented by Phillip Penix-Tadsen, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature, University of Delaware
Come learn about and play examples of video game design from Latin America! From Mexico to the Southern Cone, video game design in the region is booming today. This event will introduce you to exciting online, console, casual, and mobile games from Latin American developers, and help explain how these games fit into the global video game industry.

[Organized by the University of Delaware Library]

Thursday February 25 2016, 5:30 pm

**Film: Panama Canal Stories (2014, Panama)**
Presented by Carla GuerróMontero, Associate Professor of Anthropology and LAIS Director, University of Delaware
The unique history of the Panama Canal and its impact on Panama and the world is depicted in five shorts directed by five Panamanian directors who focus their attention on the lives of every day folk directly and indirectly affected by living near the site.

Tuesday March 15, 2016, 5:30 pm

**Film: Relatos Salvajes (2014, Argentina)**
Presented by Jesus Cruz, Professor of History University of Delaware
Relatos Salvajes (Wild Tales) is a collection of six devious, delicious, and sardonic dark tales depicting stories of extreme behavior and revenge. Each story embodies a satire of Argentina’s political corruption, social frustration, violent behavior, cynicism, and complacency. Film critics consider this to be one of the very best films of this decade.

Thursday April 7 and Friday April 8, 2016,

**Symposium “Where you were never meant to be?” An open discussion about Race and Ethnicity in the Americas**
Presented by Carla Guerrón Monroter, Associate Professor of Anthropology, and LAIS Director, University of Delaware

Thursday April 7, 2016 5:00 pm Perkins Gallery

**Workshop and Reception**

**Workshop: Theatre of the Oppressed “Engaging Race and Ethnicity”**
Led by Theater of the Oppressed NYC (TONYC)
Theater of the Oppressed, established in the early 1970s by Brazilian director and activist
Augusto Boal, is a participatory theater that fosters democratic and cooperative forms of interaction among participants. Through theatrical debate, games and scenes, participants become “spec-actors” and uncover the many possible alternatives to real life challenges and personal and collective human rights infringements.

The workshop will last two hours, and participants will play essential games from the arsenal of Theatre of the Oppressed and participate in a forum theatre demonstration. They will connect the tool of Theatre of the Oppressed to human rights and oppression as it affects the participants’ communities through dialogue and brainstorming.

Friday April 8, 2016 9:00 am-6:00 pm Ewing Room

**Symposium and Reception**

Keynote speakers Adunni Adams and James Owen Heath (R.I.T.A. Group, United Kingdom)

The Race in the Americas Group was formed to encourage interdisciplinary research and contact between those in academia, politics, and the media who share an interest in the study of race in the Americas. The group was formed by two people who came relatively late to academia, and who did not establish distinguished academic records in their twenties, when they were working in factories, call centers, building sites, and social housing organizations. R.I.T.A. aims to embrace anyone with an interest in race who feels excluded by the ‘intellectual’ nature of academic discussion.

9:00 am - Introductions

9:15 am – 11:15 am Panel 1 (40 minutes of presentations and 1hr and 20 minutes plenary discussion):

*Cultural Influences in Academia on the Study of Race in the Americas*

Moderator: James Owen Heath

The aim of this panel is to explore the ways in which race in the Americas is discussed and interrogated in the academy. This is an opportunity for members of the academy to debate if and how the academic study of race keep pace with the ever-evolving realities of race relations and the constructions of race.

**Participants (in alphabetic order):**

• Pascha Bueno-Hansen (Assistant Professor, Women and Gender Studies, UD)

• Selwyn Cudjoe (Professor of Africana Studies, Wellesley College)

• Adrienne Dixon (Associate professor in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, University of Illinois)

• Benjamin Fleury-Steiner (Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, UD)

• Tiffany Gill (Associate Professor of Black American Studies and History, UD)

11.30 am – 12:30 pm **Keynote**

The Race in the Americas Group: Networks, Research, and Future Projects
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Panel 2 (40 minutes of presentations and 1hr and 20 minutes plenary discussion):

**Identifying the Problems in Discussing Race in the Americas**  
Moderator: Adunni Adams (RITA)  
The Race in the Americas group has found itself to be a place where those who feel excluded or disengaged from conversations of the mainstream, can come and express their perspective. With that in mind, the aim of this panel is to bring about an open debate on why conversations, outside and within institutions are frustrated, encouraged or suppressed. Equally, the panel will share strategies that can be employed to open and support discussion.

**Participants (in alphabetic order):**

- Kevin D. Browne (Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law, University of Indiana)
- Kim Chanbonpin (Associate Professor, The John Marshall Law School)
- Cláudia Corrêa (Adjunct Professor, Universidade Federal de Rondônia)
- Yasser Payne (Associate Professor of Black American Studies, UD)
- Torie Weiston-Serdan (Founder and Executive Director at The Youth Mentoring Action Network)

4:00 pm Closing Remarks by the RITA Group

4:15 pm – Reading by Thomas Glave (Professor, English Department, Binghamton University)

4:40 pm – Reception

**Sponsors (in alphabetic order):**

- Center for Black Culture
- Center for the Study of Diversity
- Center for Global and Area Studies
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Black American Studies
- Department of History
- Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Department of Theatre/REP
- Department of Women and Gender Studies
- School of Education
- School of Public Policy and Administration