



Presentation

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Cuban anthropologist Fernando Ortiz Fernandez (1881-1969), one of the most important and influential Latin-American anthropologists due to his researches on the

relationships between the population of African descent and the European colonizers of America. Ortiz popularized the term 'Afro-Cuban'. He coined the concept of transculturation to understand colonial processes.

Fernando Ortiz, born in La Havana on July 16, 1881, spent his formative years in Menorca, and conducted his first ethnographic investigations there. The planned workshop aims to explore the roots of his mature theoretical vision from both a Balearic/Mediterranean and Caribbean perspective. Those years of childhood and adolescence of Fernando Ortiz in Menorca are now considered basic for his intellectual development.

This workshop aims to probe the relevance of Ortiz's key concept of 'transculturation' in regards to European national cultural and security projects in an age of massive trans-Mediterranean migration. Centred on this concept, this workshop aims to engineer an unprecedented conversation between Mediterraneanist and Caribbeanist scholars. Its goal is to harness Ortiz's mid-20th century theoretical formulations to early 21st century issues pertinent to both regions, and revolving around issues of migration, territorial sovereignty, and cultural diversity.

It is this perspective that we aim to bring to bear on a dialogue between scholars of the contemporary Caribbean and Mediterranean where, in the latter case, Ortiz's theories hold the promise of enabling novel comparative analytics.

Organization



CONSELL INSULAR DE MENORCA



Collaboration



Information and registration:

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Workshop Fernando Ortiz Caribbean and Mediterranean transculturations



Ciutadella, April from 25 to 28, 2019

Organized by Social Sciences Section of Institut Menorquí d'Estudis

Place: **Seminari Diocesà**
c/ Seminari, 7. Ciutadella

Programme

Thursday, April 25

11.30 - 14.00 h. Participants registration

15.30 h. Inauguration

16.00 - 17.30 h. **Session Ortiz's Mediterranean**
Moderation: **Jaume Mascaró** (Institut Menorquí d'Estudis, Universitat de Barcelona)

Speakers:

- *La formación menorquina de Fernando Ortiz*, **Josep Portella** (Institut Menorquí d'Estudis)
- *¿Todo comenzó en la Habana? Contextos y procesos culturales en la obra de Fernando Ortiz*, **M^a del Rosario Díaz** (Instituto Cubano de Antropología)
- *Influencia y evolución cultural de Fernando Ortiz*, **Consuelo Naranjo** (Instituto de Historia de Cuba-CSIC)
- *El lingüista Fernando Ortiz*, **Sergio Valdés** (Instituto Cubano de Antropología)

17.30 - 18.00 h. Pause

18.00 - 19.00 h. Debate

19.00 - 20.00 h. Commented reading of juvenile texts of Fernando Ortiz



Friday, April 26

9.30 - 11.00 h. **Session Transculturation**

Moderation: **M^a Dolores Martínez** (Oxford)

Speakers:

- *Sketch of Sicilian Sincopa: And what if Fernando Ortiz would have grown up elsewhere in the Mediterranean*, **Naor Ben-Yehoyada** (Columbia University)
- *Transcultural Dialectics versus Ontological Multiplicity: What Kind of History is Cooking in the Maritime Borderlands?*, **Jeffrey Kanh** (University of California)
- *Fernando Ortiz: el republicano desolado*, **Rafael Rojas** (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas en Ciudad de México)
- *Alcance y límite del concepto de transculturación en la historia del pensamiento antropológico*, **José A. Galván** (Universidad de La Laguna)

11.00 - 11.30 h. Pause

11.30 - 13.00 h. Debate

15.30 - 17.00 h. **Session Contrapuntos post-imperiales**

Moderation: **Joan Bestard** (Universitat de Barcelona)

Speakers:

- *Cultural Fundamentalism, Territory, and Inter-communal Relations: Walls and Shrines*, **Glenn Bowman** (University of Kent)
- *The Witchcraft of Modernity: An Africanist reads Los Negros Brujos one century late*, **Ramón Sarró** (University of Oxford)
- *The Portuguese Fugue. Ecumenical counterpoints in a post imperial World*, **João de Pina Cabral** (University of Kent)

17.00 - 17.30 h. Pause

17.30 - 18.30 h. Debate

18.30 - 20.00 h. **Round table** *The figure of Ortiz and the transculturation concept*. Public debate

20.30 h. **Concert, theatric representation**

Saturday, April 27

9.30 - 11.00 h. **Session Ethnographies of transculturization**

Moderation: **Stephan Palmié** (University of Chicago)

Speakers:

- *Ortiz's Yorubization of Lucumí: Translation as Transculturation*, **Amanda Villespastour** (Cardiff University)
- *Fernando Ortiz' Fetishes: Politics and Materiality of Transculturation*, **Jorge Pávez** (Chile)
- *Transculturation, Creativity and Material Religion in 'Afro-American Religions'*, **Roger Canals** (Universitat de Barcelona)

11.00 - 11.30 h. Pause

11.30 - 12.30 h. Debate

12.30 - 14.00 h. **Guide visit to Ciutadella** *The youthful city of Fernando Ortiz*

16.00 - 18.00 h. Final discussion

18.00 - 18.30 h. Pause

19.00 - 20.00 h. **Closing ceremony** (Ciutadella's Town Hall)

- Conference: *Caribbean and Mediterranean Transculturations*, **Stephan Palmié** (University of Chicago)
 - Act of municipal recognition of Ciutadella's Town Hall to Fernando Ortiz
- 20.30 h. Dinner

Sunday, April 28

Visit to Minorcan Island (optative)