

“Utopistics”

“The last thing we need are more utopian visions.” With this phrase the American intellectual Immanuel Wallerstein opened his conference in 1997 in New Zealand. He proceeded to explain that in many instances throughout history the utopias of some have provoked the infernos of others. Fanatical movements, be they religious or political, oftentimes accompany utopian visions and leave little room for reason, dialogue or thoughtful considerations.

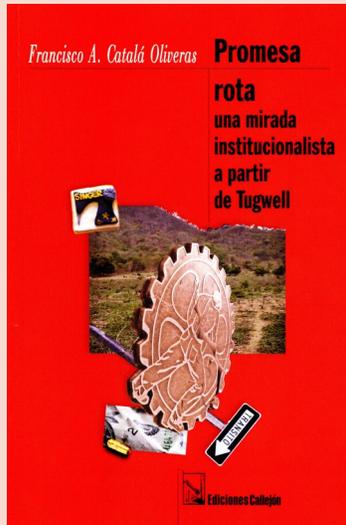
During his speech, Wallerstein coined a new word to suggest a different route toward a better society: *utopistics*. He defines the term as a “serious evaluation of historical alternatives” and “the exercise of judgment in terms of the material rationality of possible alternate historical systems” in the search for a “better, plausible alternate future”. He states that *utopistics* attempts to reconcile what science, morality and politics teach us should be our individual and social objectives.

In his presentation, Wallerstein analyzed the present state of the global capitalist system which has been in existence for over 500 years. He identified some of the contradictions which are part of the system and the role they may play in future developments. He also discussed some of the major changes (better known as “revolutions”) that have altered this system during the past centuries.

Although many of the elements presented by Wallerstein in this conference and in the book that he subsequently published on the same topic have been criticized, he does offer some clues for individuals and groups that seriously consider the search for alternatives to our present situation. In the first place, he reminds us of the need for a wide-ranging historical vision. He shares with the historian Braudel and the French school of the *Annales* the concept of the *longue durée*. Instead of limiting considerations to certain figures, groups or movements of a particular era, he advises us to look at the much wider (and much slower) processes of human history if we want to understand the functioning of today’s global capitalist system. How many of today’s “political analysts” include the discussion of global economic structures, their changes and the implications of these changes when they analyze, for example, Puerto Rico’s present economic crisis? They are more likely to limit themselves to today’s headlines and criticisms of particular administrators or politicians. An essential service that universities must provide today is that of offering a wide, historic and critical vision, within a global context, of our present situation. At the same time this service needs to reach the man — and woman— “on the street”.

According to Wallerstein, “utopistics” also implies the application of science, morality and politics to the formulation of our long-term goals. In the near future, the Piñero Collection will be launching a new initiative using social media to create a modest but important effort to offer a space for dialogue, as well as open and rational discussion of topics of major importance for our society. We hope that this new effort will be an example of “utopistics” in action.

Book presentation



Promesa rota: Una mirada institucionalista a partir de Tugwell

by Francisco Catalá Oliveros

Thursday
October 17, 2013
2:00 p.m.

In the “Demo Kitchen”
of the
International School of
Hospitality and Culinary Arts
of the
Universidad del Este
Carolina

The presentation will be by
Dr. Juan Lara

Professor of Economics
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Sponsored by: Piñero Collection/UNE

Jesús T. Piñero Library

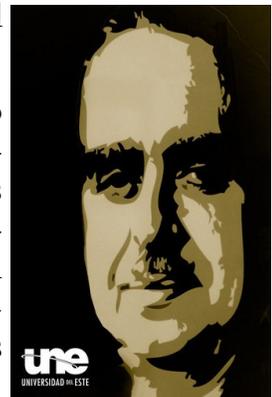


Oriental Bank Contributes to our Culture

On September 10th of this year officials of the Ana G. Méndez University System (AGMUS) met with executives of Oriental Bank at Oriental headquarters to sign the documents that officialize the bank's contribution of \$100,000 to the construction fund for the Jesús T. Piñero Library at UNE in Carolina. The library will include an exhibition gallery which will carry the name of Oriental Bank. The exhibition area of some 600 square feet will be adjacent to a reception area of over 700 square feet.

In the photograph, from left to right: Mr. Alfonso Dávila (Vice-president for Financial Matters, AGMUS), Dr. Jaime Partsch (Historian Piñero Collection), Mr. José R. Fernández (President Oriental Bank), Sr. José F. Méndez (President AGMUS), Mr. Patrick Haggarty (Vice-president Oriental Bank) and Mrs. María Isabel de Guzmán (Assistant Vice-chancellor for Institutional Development, UNE).

The UNE is very pleased to have the support of a prestigious Puerto Rican entity such as Oriental Bank among the institutions that are participating in this project that will undoubtedly benefit our community as well as future generations.



Book presentation

decirla en pedacitos: estrategias de cercanía

The UNE community had the opportunity in September to share with a talented and dedicated writer. The presentation of the book *decirla en pedacitos: estrategias de cercanía* by Guillermo Rebollo Gil was an open conversation between the author and the public about a long list of topics: literature, friendship, conflict, Puerto Rican society and culture. It was evident the impact that the essays in this book had made on those who had read it. Both the style and content of Rebollo's work are thought provoking. We are grateful to Dr. Rebollo for his visit and hope that he returns to share with us his future works.



Professors Guillermo Rebollo Gil (left), author, and Manuel Almeida, who was in charge of the presentation of *Decirla en pedacitos* during the activity at UNE.

Distinguished Visitor



On September 20th, the Piñero Reading Room at UNE received the visit of former Governor Pedro Rosselló González. As part of his visit, a presentation was given concerning the development of the Piñero Collection during the past eleven years as well as plans for the development and construction of the Piñero Library. During his visit there was also a discussion of possibilities for future collaboration between the Rosselló Library at Turabo University and the Piñero Library at the UNE.

Pinterest

Find us on the web

We invite our friends to keep abreast of the activities and development of the Piñero Collection through our page on [Pinterest](#). Here you will find information about the activities that take place, in the Collection, examples of images from our collection of photographs, a calendar of future events as well as information about the construction of the Piñero Library. To connect to this page click [here](#).

EL SABOR DE LAS AMÉRICAS
reapertura de la exposición permanente LA HERENCIA AFRICANA

DESCUBRE EL SABOR AFRICANO INMERSO EN NUESTRA CULTURA PUERTORRIQUEÑA.

FECHA: MIÉRCOLES, 9 DE OCTUBRE DE 2013
HORA: 7:00 P.M.
LUGAR: MUSEO DE LAS AMÉRICAS, SEGUNDO PISO, CUARTEL DE BALLAJÁ
VESTIMENTA: CASUAL TROPICAL

Para información sobre boletos:
787-724-5052 ó 787-722-6057

Institute of Caribbean Studies—UPR Caribbean Conferences 13

The Institute of Caribbean Studies at the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras continues to hold its series of “Caribbean Conferences”. The program for the month of October includes:

Dr. Dion E. Phillips
University of the Virgin Islands-St. Thomas
A Look Back at the People’s Revolutionary Army Forces of Grenada

Thursday, October 3, 1:00—3:30 p.m.

Centenary of Aimé Césaire
Daniel Maximin
Novelist, poet y essayist from Guadalupe
Presentation of the book ***Aimé Césaire, Frère volcan: Les cent ans d’un Orphée noir*** (*Aimé Césaire, Brother Volcano: One hundred years of a Black Orpheus* [Paris: Seuil, 2013])

Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 am – 12:00 m

Dr. Frances Santiago
UPR- Mayagüez
Suzanne Césaire: A Vanguard Legacy
Thursday, October 10, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Dr. Emilio Jorge Rodríguez
Cuban essayist and literary critic and Endowed Scholar
CUNY Caribbean, Awarded Prize for Latin American & Caribbean Essays of the Third Millennium
Nicolás Guillén and the Haitian Debate Over Race and Culture in the Context of the Second World War
Thursday, October 17, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Dr. Félix Ojeda Reyes & Dr. Paul Estrade
Institute of Caribbean Studies and the
University of Paris VIII
“Betances: A True Friend of France”, Presentation of Volumes 4 and 5 of the Complete Works of Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances”

Where: Tapia Theater, Old San Juan
Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Dr. Christian Girault
National Center for Scientific Investigation, France,
Visiting Researcher IEC
Danilo Medina President (2012-2016): Political Continuity and the Challenges of Governance in the Dominican Republic
Thursday, October 31, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

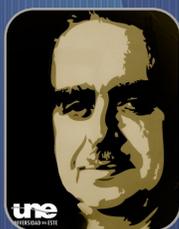
The ***Carta Informativa*** is the work of:
Leticia Delgado, Norayma Celpa and Jaime Partsch



Piñero Reading Room

Monday thru Friday
7:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

Tel. 787-257-7373 ext. 3025



Disponible en el
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