

DIASPORAN EXCHANGES: CARIBBEAN/HISPANIC ROOTS OF REMEMBRANCE

Coordinator: Mireya Perez

The study group seeks to increase our understanding of the Caribbean/Hispanic experience in the U.S. Through diverse works by Caribbean/Hispanic artists (memoir, novels, poetry, arts, among others) we focus on the essential questions that emerge from their bilingual and bicultural reality: *Where am I from? Where do I belong? Who am I?* We look for insight into the vast web of entanglements of “home” for Caribbean/Hispanic peoples. Site visits and guest writers give participants opportunities to interact directly with aspects of the cultures studied.

Readings:

Richard Blanco, *The Prince of Los Cocuyos*; Harper Collins, 2014, ISBN 978-0-06-231376-8; \$25.99.

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; Riverhead Books, 2007, ISBN 978-1-59448-329-5, \$14.00.

Martín Espada, *Crucifixion in the Plaza de Armas*; Smokestack Books, 2008, ISBN 978-0-9554028-1-4, \$17.10.

Sonia Sotomayor, *My Beloved World*; 2014; ISBN 978-0-345-80483-9, \$15.95.

Mireya Perez has her doctorate in Spanish Literature. Additionally, she has followed her interest in Caribbean studies at NYU. Mireya has coordinated several IRP study groups.

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Weeks 1-3 Growing up between two imaginary worlds:

Inaugural poet Richard Blanco’s memoir *The Prince of Los Cocuyos*

Weeks 4-5 “in love with the land where I was born”

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s memoir *My Beloved World*

Weeks 6-7 Speaking in tongues ...

Junot Diaz’s Pulitzer Prize novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Week 8 Reggae-poetry of Linton Kwesi Johnson - handouts

Week 9 Visit to Caribbean/Hispanic Cultural Center - handouts, poetry

Weeks 10-11 Martin Espada's *Puerto Rico Poems Crucifixion in the Plaza de Armas*

Week 12 Guest writers Readings
 Fiesta/Celebration (potluck)
 Final Discussion