

# Curriculum Vitae

## Oscar de la Torre

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**Academic name:** Oscar de la Torre

**Full legal name:** Oscar de la Torre Cueva

**Associate Professor of Africana and Latin American Studies**  
**University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

**Africana Studies Department – Garinger 137**

**9201 University City Blvd.**

**Charlotte, NC 28223**

**704 – 687 51 67**

**odelator@uncc.edu**

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### FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

**African Diaspora in Latin America** (slavery; marronage; transition to freedom; oral history; current black peasant movements); **Brazilian, Amazonian, and Cuban History** (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century); **Environmental Studies** (commodity history, labor and environment); **Atlantic World History** (revolution, citizenship).

### PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2011-2012 University of Central Oklahoma, Assistant Professor of History

2012-... University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies

### EDUCATION

Post-Doctoral Fellowship      Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery  
Yale University, 2014

PhD      University of Pittsburgh  
History, 2011

Graduate Certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policy  
University of Pittsburgh, 2011

MA      University of Pittsburgh  
History, 2007

BA

University of Barcelona (Spain)  
History, 2004

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2019 Outstanding First Book Prize, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora.
- 2019 Faculty Research Grant, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2017 Charlotte Research Scholars, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2016 Junior Faculty Development Award, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2015 Abdias do Nascimento Development Program, Brazilian Agency for Improvement of Research (CAPES), with researchers from Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil) and University of Barcelona (Spain).
- 2014 Post-doctoral Fellowship, Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University.
- 2014 College Educators Research Fellowship, Duke-UNC Consortium in Latin American Studies.
- 2014 Charlotte Research Scholars, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2013 Faculty Research Grant, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2011 New Faculty Grant, University of Central Oklahoma.
- 2008-2009 Andrew W. Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2005-2006 Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellowship, Center for Latin American Studies of the University of Pittsburgh.
- 2003-2004 Spanish Ministry of Education Scholarship, Department of Cultural Anthropology and History of America and Africa, University of Barcelona.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

## Books

*The People of the River: Nature and Identity in Black Amazonia, 1835-1945*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2018.

## Edited Issues in Peer-Reviewed Journals

With Laviña, Javier. "La Post-Emancipación en el Mundo Atlántico: Síntesis y Nuevas Perspectivas de Análisis," special issue of *Boletín Americanista* 68 (2014).

With Ogundiran, Akinwumi. "Community Engagement and Citizen Empowerment in Africa and the African Diaspora," *Ofo: Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, nos. 1 & 2 (June/December 2013).

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Places of Memory and Time Slips: Narratives of the 'Good Master' and the History of Brazilian Slavery," *Oral History Review* 44, Issue 2, September 2017, 237–259.

"Los Ambiguos Efectos de la Fluidez y la Contingencia: La Post-emancipación en el Brasil Frontera (Amazonía, 1888-1950)" in "La Postemancipación en las Américas: Síntesis y Nuevas Perspectivas de Análisis", ed. Oscar de la Torre and Javier Laviña, *Boletín Americanista* 68 (2014), 101-120.

"'Are They Really Quilombos?' Black Peasants, Politics, and the Meaning of Quilombo in Present-day Brazil," *Ofo: Journal of Trans-Atlantic Studies* 3, nos. 1 & 2 (June/December 2013), 97-118.

"'The Land is Ours and We Are Free to Do All that We Want': *Quilombos* and Black Protest in Amazonia, Brazil, 1917-1929," *The Latin Americanist* 56, no. 4 (2012), 33-56.

"O Carimbó e a História Social da Grande Vigia, Pará, 1900-1950," *Revista Estudos Amazônicos* IV, no. 2 (Belém, Brazil), 2010, 113-150.

"Latinoamericanos en la Zona Bastarda: influencia latinoamericana en la cultura y la política barcelonesas, 1980-2005", in *Osamayor* 17 [Pittsburgh-PA], 2006, pp. 81-95.

## Book Chapters

With Paulo Cordeiro, "Mundos Sociais em Movimento: As Letras do Carimbó na Vigia," in Paulo Cordeiro, *O Carimbó na Vigia* (Vigia – PA, Brazil: Edição do Autor, 2010), 128-158.

## Conference Proceedings

“Crias de la Casa”: De Senzala a Comunidad en Pará, Brasil, 1850-1880,” *Sociedades Diversas, Sociedades en Cambio: América Latina en Perspectiva Histórica. XII Encuentro-Debate América Latina Ayer y Hoy*. Barcelona: UB Publications, 2011, 187-195.

## Book Reviews and Bibliographic Essays

Review of *Frontiers of Citizenship: A Black and Indigenous History of Postcolonial Brazil* by Yuko Miki, *The Americas* 76 (4), 720-721.

Review of *Landscapes of Freedom: Building a Postemancipation Society in the Rainforests of Western Colombia* by Claudia Leal, *Hispanic American Historical Review* 99 (3), 566-568.

Review of *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*, by Paul Ortiz, *Journal of African American History* 104 (4), 719-721.

Book review of Matthias Röhrig Assunção, *De caboclos a bem-te-vis. Formação do campesinato numa sociedade escravista: Maranhão 1800-1850* (São Paulo: Annablume, 2015). *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 37, no. 3 (2018), 370-372.

“Crossroads and Transformations: New Scholarship on Abolition and the Post-Emancipation Period in Brazil,” bibliographic essay of Celso Castilho, *Slave Emancipation and Transformations in Brazilian Political Citizenship* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016), and Walter Fraga, *Crossroads of Freedom: Slaves and Freed People in Bahia, Brazil, 1870-1910* (Duke University Press, 2016), *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe* 28, no.2 (2017), 136-138.

Review of Peter M. Beattie, *Punishment in Paradise: Race, Slavery, Human Rights, and a Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Penal Colony* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015), *Canadian Journal of History* 52, no. 1 (2017), 168-170.

Review of Camilia Cowling, *Conceiving Freedom: Women of Color, Gender, and the Abolition of Slavery in Havana and Rio de Janeiro* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2013), *Afro-Ásia* 51 (2016), 283-286.

Review of Tâmis Parron, *A Política da Escravidão no Império do Brasil, 1826-1865* (Rio de Janeiro: Civilização Brasileira, 2011), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 93 (2013), 125-127.

Review of Timothy James Lockley, *Maroon Communities in South Carolina: A Documentary Record* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2009). *Florida Historical Quarterly* 88, no.2 (2009), 280-282.

Review of James P. Woodward, *A Place in Politics: São Paulo, Brazil, from Seigneurial Republicanism to Regionalist Revolt* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2009). *Chronicle of Historical Studies* Vol. 6 (Winter 2008-2009), 260-263.

### **Works in Progress**

Thrown in the "Sumidouro": Haunted Waterscapes, Death, and Religion Among the Enslaved in Nineteenth-Century Amazonia. Article manuscript. Target publication: *Slavery & Abolition*.

### **Translations**

George Reid Andrews, *Afro-Latinoamérica, 1800-2000*, Madrid: Iberoamericana Vervuert, 2007. English to Spanish.

Gregory Mixon, "'Merecemos un tratamiento mejor': Auge y caída de las milicias negras en el hemisferio occidental durante el siglo XIX", *Boletín Americanista* 68 (2014), 55-75. English to Spanish.

### **Other Publications**

"The Towering Inferno: Fire and Globalization in Amazonia," 25 September 2019, <https://uncpressblog.com/2019/09/25/oscar-de-la-torre-the-towering-inferno-fire-and-globalization-in-amazonia/>

"The Backlash Against Reparations for Slavery in Brazil," *UNC Press Blog*, October 11, 2018. <https://uncpressblog.com/2018/10/11/oscar-de-la-torre-the-backlash-against-reparations-for-slavery-in-brazil/>

"¿Por qué hay desigualdades raciales en una sociedad sin racistas?," *Debate Callejero*, January 30, 2018, <http://www.debatecallejero.com/por-que-hay-desigualdades-raciales-en-una-sociedad-sin-racistas/>

"Beyond the Cold Fact: The WPA Narratives, Brazil's Black Peasants, and the Conduct of Oral History," *The Oral History Review Blog*, October 24, 2017, <http://oralhistoryreview.org/oup-blog/beyond-the-cold-fact-the-wpa-narratives-brazils/>

"Understanding Brazil's Present Day Quilombos: A Small Term for a Big Reality," *End Slavery Now*, October 23, 2014, <https://www.endslaverynow.org/blog/articles/understanding-brazil-s-present-day-quilombos-a-small-term-for-a-big-reality>

## OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH IN THE FIELD

### Invited Research Presentations

"Brazilian Studies Committee Meeting: Understudied Geographies in Brazilian History: A Methodological Conversation," American Historical Association meeting, New York, January 3-6, 2020.

"Citizens of the River:" Race, Class, Citizenship, and the Discourses of Black Farmers in Amazonia, 1920-c.1950," Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Richmond, VA, October 7, 2016.

"Fevers, Rice, and Revolution: New Perspectives on Slavery and Environment," *Els Juliols de la UB*, University of Barcelona's summer school, Barcelona, Spain, 2016.

President, panel "The Contours of Second Slavery: Brazil, Cuba, and the United States," Society for the History of the Early American Republic at Raleigh, NC, Friday, July 17, 2015.

"Brazil in Metamorphosis", Great Decisions 2015 lecture series, Foreign Policy Association and Charlotte World Affairs Council, Charlotte, January 28, 2015.

"Larry and Luis' Trajectories: Using the Environment to Fight for Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Amazonia," Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University, December 4, 2014.

"A Wild and Diversified Scenery": Economy, Environment, and Society in Amazonia's Second Slavery, 1835-1888," Gilder-Lehrman Center, Yale University, December 3, 2014.

"Brazil's Present-Day Quilombos: From History Books to Reparations for Slavery," Central Connecticut State University, Hartford (Connecticut), November 6, 2014.

"Negros ou Camponeses? Trajetória Afrodescendente e Conflitos Agrários na Amazônia, 1920-1930," Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, May 8, 2014.

"Beyond the Golden Law: Maroon Abolition in the Lower Amazon, 1870-1890s," 11th International Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA), September 8, 2012.

"A Sort of Patrimony of the Blacks": Extractivism and Black Political Protest in Post-Rubber Era Pará, Brazil, 1917-1943," William Wilson Brown Memorial Conference on Latin American Studies, Charlotte, NC, March 20, 2012.

## Other Research Presentations

"Thrown in the "Sumidouro": Haunted Waterscapes, Death, and Religion Among the Enslaved in Nineteenth-Century Amazonia," Africana Studies Department Brown Bag Seminar, January 30, 2020.

"Great Calamities:" Spaniards, Africans, and the Medical Ecology of Late Colonial Cuba, 1850-1892," American Historical Association meeting, New York, January 3-6, 2020.

"Filling Whites and Blacks with Terror": Pathogens, Race Management, and Toxic Colonialism in Cuba, 1833-1898, Latin American Environments: Approaches from the Sciences and the Humanities, XIII Brown Conference, UNC Charlotte, April 5 and 6, 2019.

"From Slum to Neighborhood: Settlement, Environmental Health, and Sociability in the San Juan River, Matanzas, Cuba, 1830-1900," Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Indianapolis, IN, October 4, 2018.

"Sanitary Spaces and Political Protest in Post-Abolition Savannah (GA) and Matanzas (Cuba), c.1860-1890," Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain, May 23, 2018.

"Secluding and Evicting: Disease, Space, and Racial Exclusion in Matanzas, Cuba, 1833-1887," Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Biennial Conference, Seville, Spain, November 8, 2017.

"Santa Rosa and His Henchmen Kill Barbarically!": Protest, Witchcraft, and Capitalist Development in Amazonia, Brazil, 1927," Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies Annual Meeting, Chapel Hill (NC), Saturday, March 25, 2017.

"Environmental Narratives and the Spaces of Black Identity in Brazil: Restoring the Links," Africana Studies Brown Bag talk, April 15, 2015.

"Narratives of the "Good Master" and the Origins of Black Communities in Brazil, 1870–1920," American Historical Association, Conference on Latin American History, January 2, 2015.

"The Dark Side of Fluidity and Mobility in the Borderlands: Black Rural Communities in Lower Amazonia, 1870-1950", Southeastern Council in Latin American Studies Conference, New Orleans, March 29, 2014.

"Beyond Landownership: The Achievements and Challenges of Present Day Quilombos in Brazil," William Wilson Brown Conference on Latin American Studies, Charlotte, NC, April 26, 2013.

“Environmental Knowledge and Slave-Master Relations in Amazonia: From Enslaved Hunting Guides to Free Men, 1850-1888,” in *Beyond the Lungs of the World: Perspectives on Ecological Thought in Latin America*, Program in Latin American Studies – Johns Hopkins University, April 19, 2013.

“Maroon-descendants and Landownership in Brazil: A Road towards Reparations for Slavery?,” in ‘All Politics is Local’: Perspectives on Community Engagement and Citizen Empowerment in Africa and the African Diaspora, Symposium in Honor of Professor Oladimeji Aborisade, Charlotte, October 22, 2012.

“Rural Slavery and the Emergence of a Black Peasantry in Pará, 1850–88,” American Historical Association, Chicago, January 2012.

“Extraction of Forest Resources by Masters and Slaves in the Plantation of the Amazon, 1850-1888,” Southern Forum on Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental History, University of South Carolina, April 2010.

“No Land Measurement Will Be Done!” Land, Labor and Conflict in Alemquer (Pará, Brazilian Amazon), 1921-1940,” Mercyhurst Colloquium on the Americas: Labor and Migration in the Americas, April 2010.

“De *senzala* a comunidad en Pará: 1850-1888,” XII Encuentro-Debate América Latina Ayer y Hoy, Barcelona, Spain, November 2009.

## **SERVICE**

### **Book Manuscript Evaluations**

Book manuscript evaluator for University of New Mexico Press, 2019--.

### **Article Evaluations**

Article evaluator for *Brasiliانا – Journal of Brazilian Studies* (2019--); *American Anthropologist* (2019--); *Journal of Latin American Studies* (2019--); *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* (2019--); *Boletim do Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi* or Bulletin of the Museum Emílio Goeldi, Brazil (2016--); *Americanía: Revista de Estudios Latinoamericanos*, Spain (2016--); *Atlantic Studies*, UK (2016--); *Clio: Revista de História*, Brazil (2015--); *Journal of Material Culture* (2014--); *Latin American Research Review* (2012--); *The Southern Historian* (2010-2012).

### **Prize and Conference Committees**



Main convener of Latin American Environments: Approaches from the Sciences and the Humanities, XIII Brown Conference, UNC Charlotte, April 5 and 6, 2019.

Frederick Douglass Prize Committee Member, Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, 2017.

Edward Moseley Student Paper Award committee member, Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies, 2017.

Co-organizer of *Locating and Connecting Latin America and the African Diaspora*, joint event co-organized by William Wilson Brown Conference, Africana Studies Symposium, and Rio de la Plata Workshop, April 30-May 1, 2015.

2015 Conference for Latin American History (American Historical Association) program committee member, New York, January 2-5, 2015.

Edward Moseley Student Paper Award committee member, Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies, 2014.

Co-organizer of William Wilson Brown, Jr. 2014 Conference: "Landscape in Context: Exploring Relationships Between the Built and Natural Environment in Latin America", UNC Charlotte, April 2014.

Kimberly S. Hanger Article Prize committee member, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Section of the Southern Historical Association, 2013.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Graduate:**

*Senior Research Seminar: Race and Nation in Latin America*, Spring 2014 --.  
*Society, Environment, and Racial Thought in the Atlantic World, 1400-1945*. Summer 2014, Federal University of Pará, Brazil.  
*Colloquium in Modern Latin American History*, Spring 2013 --.  
*A Social and Maritime History of the Caribbean*, Spring 2011.

### **Undergraduate:**

*Environment, State, and Society in the Caribbean and Latin America*, Spring 2019--.  
*World History*, Summer 2016, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China.  
*Modern U.S. History*, Summer 2016, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China.  
*Race in the History of Brazil*, Fall 2013 --.  
*Environment and Economy in the Atlantic World, 1500-1900*. Fall 2012 --.  
*Afro-Latin American History*, Fall 2012 --.

*World History II*, Spring 2012.  
*Latin American History*, Assistant Professor, Fall 2011.  
*U.S. History From 1865*, Fall and Spring 2011.  
*Modern Latin America*, Instructor, Spring 2009.

### **MA Thesis committees**

Committee member: Juan Pimentel Otero (2014), Maria Labbato (2014), Bruno Souza (2014), Janine Rangel de Assis (2015), Emily Dallmeyer (2015); Joseph Willard (2017); Elizabeth Moore (2017); Angélica Gumucio (2017); Patrice Wilson (2017); Matthew Needham (2017); Sofia Paiva de Araujo (2019).

Thesis director:

Sarah Hawkins (2019): “Sombras en Videojuegos: Virtual Tourism and Cold War Representation in Tactical Shooters.”

Carolina Timoteo de Oliveira (2018): “Afro-Brazilian Culture as a Means of Transformation: Spaces, Businesses and Political Participation in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.”

Accepted at Tulane University’s Latin American Studies program.

Maria Paula Andrade Diniz de Araujo (2016): “The Catholic Church and the Free Womb Law in Recife, Pe, Brazil: An Analysis of its Social Development, 1870-1878.”

Accepted Vanderbilt University’s History PhD program.

Nicholas Ortiz (2016): “Pedro Segundo and Getúlio Vargas: National Leaders, Words, and Sociopolitical Change in Brazil During the Paraguayan War and World War II”

Accepted at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s History PhD program.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 2016--.

Southern Historical Association, 2014-2016.

Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies, 2013--.

Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora, 2013--.

Instituto Histórico e Geographico do Pará, Corresponding Member, 2012--.

Asociación Española de Americanistas, 2011-2015.

Brazilian Studies Association, 2012-- .

American Historical Association, 2007-- .

## LANGUAGES

Spanish	Native
Catalan	Native
English	Fluent
Portuguese	Fluent
French	Reading comprehension

## REFERENCES

George Reid Andrews  
Distinguished Professor of History  
University of Pittsburgh  
[Reid1@pitt.edu](mailto:Reid1@pitt.edu)

Alejandro de la Fuente  
Robert Woods Bliss Professor of Latin American History and Economics  
Director, Afro-Latin American Research Institute  
Harvard University  
[delafuente@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:delafuente@fas.harvard.edu)

Manuel Barcia  
Professor of Latin American History  
University of Leeds  
[m.barcia@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.barcia@leeds.ac.uk)