



# Western

Centre for Research on  
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Fall Colloquium  
Series 2014**

## **Between Legal Reasons and Political Considerations: The Rights of Africa-Born Freedpersons to Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century Brazil in Atlantic Perspective**

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth century witnessed the diffusion of notions of individual freedom and political sovereignty of the people that influenced both the processes of independence and the abolition of the slave trade and slavery in colonial territories in the Americas. As slavery came under pressure territories that were dependent on a continuous supply of laborers by the Atlantic slave trade and that had a significant proportion of Africans or African-descended people in the population presented different alternatives. Independent Spanish Colonies, besides Haiti, abolished it. This complex scene of independence, slavery and abolition will serve as the background for a discussion of the status of African-born freedpersons in Brazil. While considered subjects of the king of Portugal and holding the potential to integrate into colonial society up until 1882, after Brazilian independence African freed persons were never considered Brazilian citizens. By breaking the tradition, Brazil also moved away from the practice in other Atlantic territories. The talk explores Brazilian constitutional debates, legislation, and key legal cases.



## **Dr. Beatriz G. Mamigonian**

received her PhD from the University of Waterloo, in Canada. She is a professor of History at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil, having also been a fellow at the Gilder Lehman Center at Yale and a visiting professor of history at Michigan State University. She co-edited, with Karen Racine, the collections of biographies *The Human Tradition in the Black Atlantic* (2009), and *The Human Tradition in the Atlantic World* (2010). Her research concentrates on the social consequences of the prohibition of the Atlantic slave trade in Brazil. She has published a number of essays in edited collections and journal articles in English and in Portuguese, among them "In the name of freedom: Slave Trade Abolition, the Law and the Brazilian Branch of the African Emigration Scheme", *Slavery & Abolition* (2009). She is currently preparing a book manuscript on the experience of liberated Africans in Brazil.

**4:00pm Thursday  
December 4, SSC 5220**

*Please join us beforehand for refreshments at  
3:30pm in SSC 5230, All Welcome!  
For More Info email: [Merassis@uwo.ca](mailto:Merassis@uwo.ca)*

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