

# The African Diaspora in the Bolivian High Andes: The Struggle for Cultural, Social, and Political Representation

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**  
**11:00 am – 12:30 pm EDT**  
**Online via Zoom**

The African Diaspora in Latin America extends beyond the Atlantic coastal cities that witnessed the entry of those who survived the Middle Passage. Nearly 30,000 Africans were forcibly brought to work in the High Andes, first in the mines of Potosí and later relocated to work in the plantations of the Yungas valley. With time, this vibrant community formed the only monarchy of African descent in the Americas. After 187 years, the Kingdom was officially recognized by the Bolivian government in 2007 as a preemptive vision for the historic referendum that created the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2009, and whose reformulated constitution recognized over 36 Bolivian nationalities, thereby granting more power to the country's long marginalized *pueblos originarios*. According to the 2012 Bolivian census, approximately 23,000 citizens identify as Afro-Bolivian, although considering people of mixed backgrounds, experts estimate that number is closer to 40,000. This panel invites a closer look at the Afro-Bolivian legacy and challenges of representation before and after this paradigm of plurinational inclusion through the fields of art, discursive archaeology, and politics.

**Registration:** <https://go.fiu.edu/AfroBolivia>



Photo credit: Carmen Angola Campos

## **Panelists:**

**Jacqueline Alvarez-Rosales, PhD**

Associate Professor of Spanish, Spelman College  
2021-2022 HBCU-Mellon Fellow at the National Humanities Center

**Carmen Angola Campos**

Afro-Bolivian Photographer and Activist

**Jorge Medina**

First Afro-Bolivian Congressman, Community Leader and Activist

## **Moderators:**

**Denise Callejas, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and Interim  
Department Chair, Modern Foreign Languages, Morehouse College

**María-Luisa Veisaga, PhD**

Director, Andean Studies Program of Excellence, Kimberly Green  
Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International  
University

In Spanish with simultaneous interpretation in English. Part of  
LACC's Andean Studies Program of Excellence. Co-sponsored by  
Morehouse College, Spelman College and African & African  
Diaspora Studies at FIU.