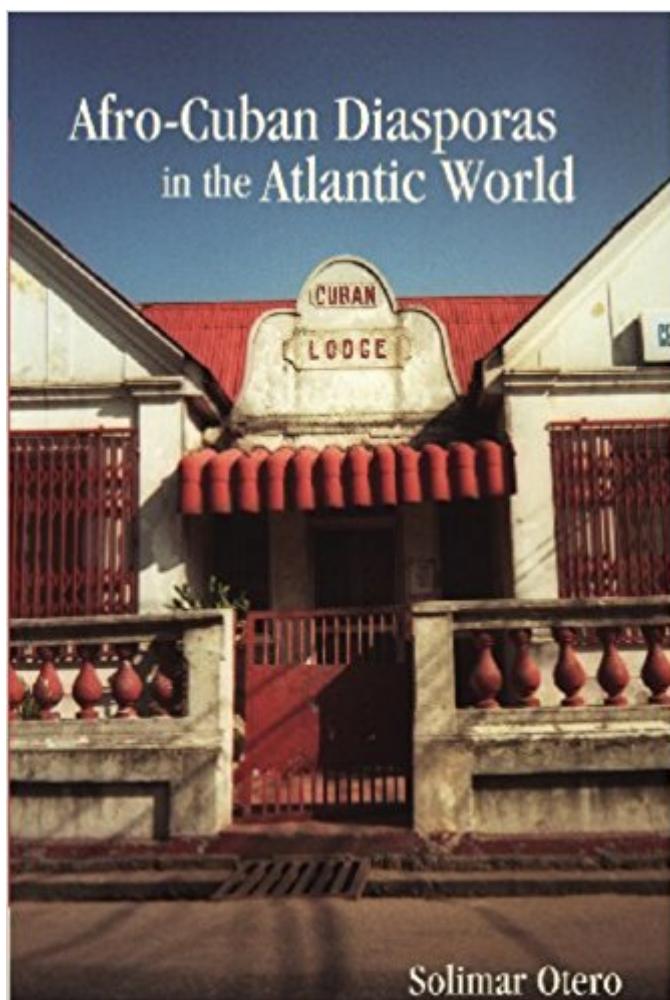


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Afro-Cuban Diasporas In The Atlantic World (Rochester Studies In African History And The Diaspora)



Synopsis

Afro-Cuban Diasporas in the Atlantic World explores how Yoruba and Afro-Cuban communities moved across the Atlantic between the Americas and Africa in successive waves in the nineteenth century. In Havana, Yoruba slaves from Lagos banded together to buy their freedom and sail home to Nigeria. Once in Lagos, this Cuban repatriate community became known as the Aguda. This community built their own neighborhood that celebrated their Afrolatino heritage. For these Yoruba and Afro-Cuban diasporic populations, nostalgic constructions of family and community play the role of narrating and locating a longed-for home. By providing a link between the workings of nostalgia and the construction of home, this volume re-theorizes cultural imaginaries as a source for diasporic community reinvention. Through ethnographic fieldwork and research in folkloristics, Otero reveals that the Aguda identify strongly with their Afro-Cuban roots in contemporary times. Their fluid identity moves from Yoruba to Cuban, and back again, in a manner that illustrates the truly cyclical nature of transnational Atlantic community affiliation.

Book Information

Series: Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: University of Rochester Press; Reprint edition (July 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580464734

ISBN-13: 978-1580464734

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Otero deftly conveys the complexity of the Atlantic world and the layered, portable and transnational sense of community that emerged...a much-needed study. --Bulletin of Latin American Research

Afro-Cuban Diasporas in the Atlantic World is poised to make a contribution to issues of diaspora, identity, and culture within the understudied area of repatriated Africans and African-descended Latin Americans in Nigeria. Its strengths reside in its sound theoretical grounding

in cultural studies, and in the interviews with those of Aguda heritage. Connecting the multi-layered and multi-directional linkages of individuals and communities caught up in slavery and colonialism in the Atlantic world, this study will most certainly enhance the scholarship in African, African diaspora, Atlantic world, and Latin American studies. --Michele Reid Vazquez, Assistant Professor of Atlantic World History, Georgia State University An innovative study that aptly points to the linguistic, cultural, and geographic expansiveness of Afro-Atlantic diasporic communities. . . anyone interested in a study of the African diaspora that does not begin and end in Africa or the United States will also find Afro-Cuban Diasporas particularly insightful. --Western Folklore

Solimar Otero is Associate Professor of English and a folklorist at Louisiana State University. Her research centers on gender, sexuality, Afro-Caribbean spirituality, and Yoruba traditional religion in folklore, literature and ethnography. Dr. Otero is the recipient of a Ruth Landes Memorial Research Fund grant (2013), a fellowship at the Harvard Divinity School's Women's Studies in Religion Program (2009 to 2010), and a Fulbright award (2001).

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