

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Between Three Continents: Rethinking Equatorial Guinea on the Fortieth Anniversary of Its Independence from Spain

Hofstra University, Hempstead (New York)

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Between Three Continents: Rethinking Equatorial Guinea on the 40th Anniversary of its Independence from Spain

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I want to personally thank Professor Benita Sampedro Vizcaya and the font of energy and enthusiasm that have made it possible for her to bring together so many important diplomats, artists, scholars, writers and thinkers – not that the foregoing aren't all promises to make this a moment in world history as well, as one of the goals is to encourage a reconsideration of the past in a view to shaping the future.

In Professor Sampedro's insightful piece of scholarship, entitled "Rethinking the Arch Colonial Library," and recently published in the *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*, her efforts to establish a history of Equatorial Guinea, as is the case for the history of former colonies in Africa and elsewhere, is too often an exercise in nostalgia and revision. Derrida points out, the association between memory and forgetting is too tempting and we must be vigilant to insist on the nature of the archive that is being established and what it will represent Equatorial Guinea in the future. Rather than a "locus for covering the past" and psychological trauma and contributing to the formation of a public imperial i

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rather than "an insignia of colonial authority and a signifier of colonial discipline,"² rather than perpetuating a repository of memories of a past that some refuse to relinquish,³ the present

¹ Sampedro

² Homi Bhabha

³ <<http://www.raimonland.net/>>

