



CALL FOR PAPER

Sí, sí Caribe! / Caribbean rhythms

Hegemony and dissidence in Caribbean carnivals

Revista Brasileira do Caribe –ISSN: 1518-6784 (print) and ISSN 1984-6169 (online), indexed in Latindex, Redalyc, and CAPES– is inviting article submissions on the theme of hegemony and dissidence in Caribbean carnivals for its *Sí, sí Caribe! / Caribbean rhythms* issue.

What do carnival celebrations in Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Kingstown, Port-au-Prince, Santo Domingo and Port of Spain have in common? Can we think of West Indian carnivals in the same way as other continental Caribbean carnivals, like those of Veracruz, Barranquilla, Panama or the Garifuna coast? How do Caribbean carnivals compare with other similar festivities in the Americas, for instance in New Orleans or Salvador de Bahia?

This call for submissions aims to engage a regional discussion about the contemporary configuration of Caribbean carnivals. For the purposes of this call, carnivals are understood as cultural expressions of synthesis and struggle. They are the place where symbolic and social forces converge once a year to regenerate popular memory and traditions through music, dance, dress, games and performance.

However, contrary to popular beliefs and experiences, carnivals have often faced great normative, moral, economic and political proscriptions, which have sometimes resulted in regulated parades and standardized events. Therefore, certain Latin American and Caribbean celebrations that were once a place for expressing diversity and dissent have become elitist, homogenous and highly exclusive events.

Despite this, contemporary Caribbean carnivals still function as political spaces in which social relations and identities of class, race and ethnicity are contested, reclaimed or reconfigured, coalescing in symbolic demonstrations of social contradictions. Alternative popular responses, such as unofficial carnivals, are also generated in opposition to various types of economic and political domination.



All of these processes, which are framed in multicultural policies, global tourism and “heritage making”, become even more complex and ambiguous: tradition has become part of a contemporary performance just as popular festive expressions are excluded from their traditional spaces.

We are seeking contributions that will showcase the specificities and common features of many Caribbean carnivals, but also question the struggles that arise within the celebrations, the tension between the spectators and participants’ roles, the adaptations of “traditional” music and dances for global audiences, the political claims and resistance translated by esthetic choices, economic and homogenizing pressures, identity negotiations and assertions that take place on stage, and the constant struggle for control and regulation of celebrations that are inherently subversive, satirical and creative.

We invite you to submit your articles on processes of commodification, political conflict, symbolic subversion, identity claims, resistance, invisibility, and “heritage-making” in one or more contemporary Caribbean carnivals.

Articles should be submitted by e-mail no later than June 21st, 2016 to laura.delarosa.solano@gmail.com and lorena.ardito@gmail.com

Please don’t hesitate to circulate this call for submissions.