Researchers Bios

Dr. Edwin Melendez [2] is a Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College. He was appointed as the Director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies in 2008. An economist by training, he has conducted considerable research in the areas of Puerto Rican and Latino studies, economic development, labor markets, and poverty. In addition to numerous scientific papers and other publications, he is the author or editor of ten books.

Kurt Birson [3], economics researcher at Centro, received his Master's in Economics from the New School for Social Research in January of 2012, and holds a dual BA in International Political Economy and in Latino Studies from Fordham University.

Dr. Harry Franqui-Rivera [4] earned BA from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, an MA in Military and Diplomatic History from Temple University, a PhD in Latin American-Caribbean History and a Graduate Certificate in Latino Studies from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Marilisa Jimenez-Garcia [5], research associate at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, CUNY, graduated from the University of Florida in 2012 with a PhD in English, specializing in American literature/studies and children’s literature.

Dr. Luis O. Reyes [6], PhD was appointed as a Research Associate at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College,
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[6] CUNY, in 2010. He serves as Centro’s Director of Education. Dr. Reyes has served as assistant professor in various education departments, including Lehman, Hunter, Brooklyn and Baruch Colleges, CUNY, and at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus.

[7] Dr. Carlos Vargas Ramos, is a Centro research associate working on the impact of migration on Puerto Rican political behavior, political attitudes and orientations. He received his BA in political science and Economics from Rutgers University and also holds an MA in Hispanic Civilization from New York University, and a PhD in Political Science from Columbia University.

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